



BATMAN

NO MAN'S LAND



VOLUME
TWO

BATMAN

NO MAN'S LAND

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VOLUME TWO

**FOR TWENTY SECONDS, THE EARTH
MOVED WITH A FURY THAT NONE
IN GOTHAM COULD EVER
HAVE IMAGINED.**

But that was only the beginning...

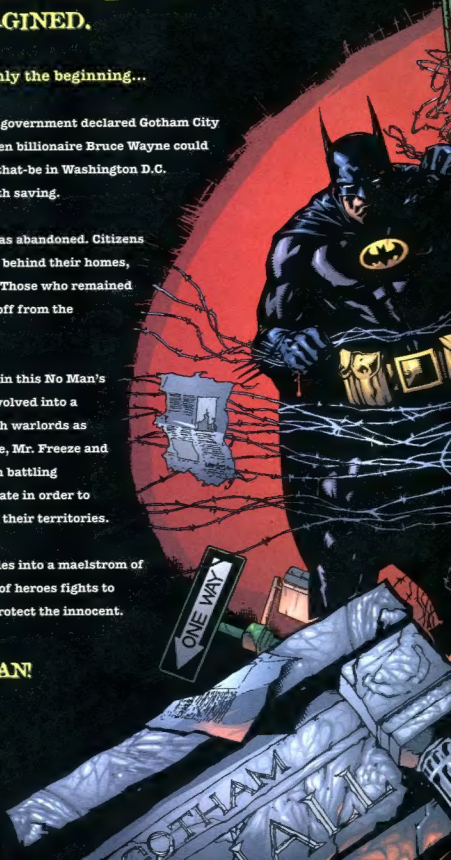
The United States government declared Gotham City beyond repair. Not even billionaire Bruce Wayne could convince the powers-that-be in Washington D.C. that the city was worth saving.

And so, Gotham was abandoned. Citizens were ordered to leave behind their homes, their lives, their city. Those who remained would be forever cut off from the outside world.

Now sealed away in this No Man's Land, Gotham has devolved into a tribal war zone — with warlords as disparate as Two-Face, Mr. Freeze and Commissioner Gordon battling for chunks of real estate in order to extend the borders of their territories.

As the city cascades into a maelstrom of violence, a tiny band of heroes fights to preserve peace and protect the innocent. Their leader...

...THE BATMAN!



...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

BREAD and CIRCUSES Part One

IT'S NOT
WORKING...

IAN EDGINTON . D'ISRAELI . JOHN COSTANZA . DIGITAL CHAMELEON
WRITER ARTIST/COLORIST LETTERER SEPARATOR
JOSEPH ILLIDGE . JORDAN B. GORFINKEL . DENNIS O'NEIL
ASSOCIATE EDITOR EDITOR GROUP EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



...I WAS AWAY
TOO LONG, PREPARING.

THEY'VE
FALLEN SO
FAR, SO
FAST.

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN.



GET
HIM! KILL
HIM!

NO ONE
CRASHES
RED DEVIL
TURF!

BUT IT'S
HIM... THE
BAT



SO? THAT
WAS THEN, THIS
IS NOW.



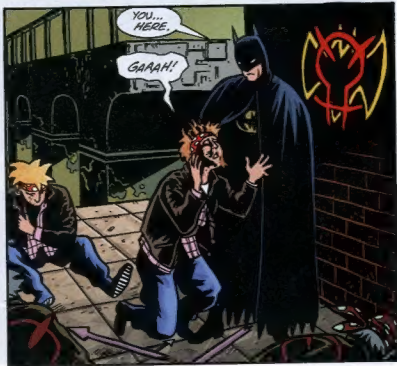
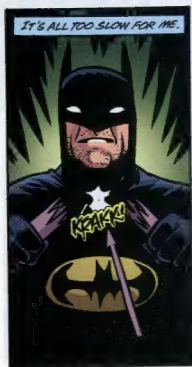
HE'S
HISTORY!

A MONTH IN THIS NO MAN'S
LAND IS A LIFETIME...
THREE MONTHS AN
ETERNITY. THEY'VE
FORGOTTEN RESPECT...



...FORGOTTEN
THE FEAR.

GNHH!





PUT...IT...
BACK!



I NEED TO
SPREAD
THE WORD...

...LET ALL OF
GOTHAM KNOW
I'M BACK FOR
GOOD.



PROBLEM IS, HOW TO
COMMUNICATE WITH SUCH
A WIDESPREAD, DISPARATE
POPULATION. I DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO BEGIN...



FORTUNATELY I KNOW
SOMEONE WHO MIGHT.



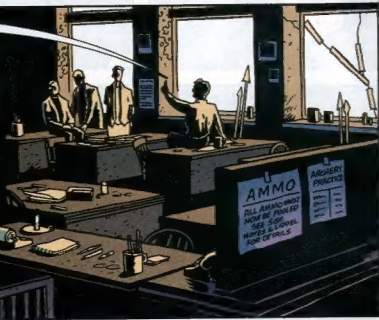


"... EVERY
DAMN THING!"

... I MEAN, WHAT WAS
HE THINKING? OKAY, SO HE
GOT LUCKY PLAYING THE LOBOYS
OFF AGAINST THE DEMONZ.
BUT DOESN'T HE IMAGINE
THESE ANIMALS EVER TALK
TO EACH OTHER?

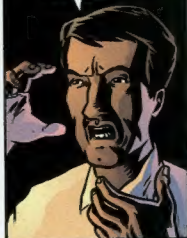
IT'S OBVIOUS THE
WRECKERS AND KHOSA
KNEW THEY WERE
COMING!

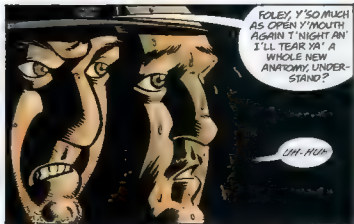
WE KEEP PUSHING,
TAKING BACK THE CITY BLOCK
BY BLOCK, BUT WE JUST
DON'T HAVE THE NUMBERS.
THERE'LL COME A POINT
WHEN WE'RE STRETCHED
TOO THIN...



... THEN SOME MONGREL AND
HIS PACK WILL WALK RIGHT IN
AND TAKE OVER THE WHOLE
DEAL. LIKE I SAID BEFORE,
WE SHOULD DIG IN, DEFEND
WHAT WE HAVE.

THIS HELLHOLE IS
NOT WORTH... DYING
... FOR...





FOLEY, Y'SO MUCH
AS OPEN Y'MOUTH
AGAIN T'NIGHT AN'
I'LL TEAR YA' A
WHOLE NEW
ANATOMY, UNDER-
STAND?

UH-HUH



HE'S
WRONG,
SARAH.
WRONG!

I KNOW HE IS.
FOLEY'S A GOOD MAN,
JIM, HE'S JUST
SOUNDING OFF. IT'S HIS
WAY OF DEALING WITH IT
ALL, WITH BEING STUCK
IN GOTHAM. HE TRIED
TO GET OUT ON BLACK
MONDAY, YOU KNOW...

ANYWAY,
WE'RE ALL
UNDER A LOT OF
PRESSURE...

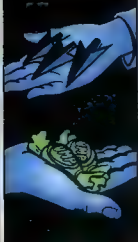


... SOME MORE
THAN OTHERS

I KNOW, AND
I KNOW DEEP INSIDE
WHAT WE'RE DOING
IS RIGHT AND
JUST...

... BUT SO HELP
ME GOD, AFTER
TONIGHT, THERE'S A
SMALL PART OF ME
THAT CAN'T HELP
BUT AGREE WITH
HIM

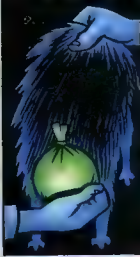
ARROWHEADS
FOR CANDY



BLANKETS FOR
BICYCLE TIRES



DOG PELTS FOR
SALT.



PIGEONS FOR
TOOTHPASTE

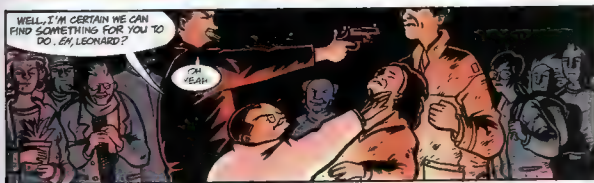


SOMETHING
TO TRADE? SOMETHING
YOU DESIRE? SOONER
OR LATER EVERYONE
MAKES THEIR WAY TO
PENGUIN'S.











YOU TRIED TO CHEAT ME. BY RIGHTS I SHOULD KILL YOU BOTH. BUT I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR LOVE - BIRDS.

TONIGHT IS CHARITY NIGHT, WHEN I ENTERTAIN THE POOR AND NEEDY. OR, RATHER, THEY ENTERTAIN US YOU, MY RAGGED KNIGHT, WILL JOIN THEM



IF LOVE CONQUERS ALL, YOU'LL BOTH WANT FOR NOTHING. IF NOT... WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.



TAKE THEM AWAY!



ORACLE-- IT'S RAJIV. IT'S ON.



REST IN
PEACE, SON.
YOUR DUTY'S
DONE.



WORKING
THE GRAVEYARD
SHIFT, COMMISS-
SIONER?

WHAT?
WHO'S
THERE?



SURELY
YOU
RECOGNIZE
ME...

HOW
DID
YOU



GET IN HERE? SIMPLE. YOUR
MEN ARE TIRED, TERRIFIED
AND TOO FEW.

TONIGHT'S
DEBACLE DIDN'T HELP
EITHER. HENCE MY
VISIT. I BELIEVE WE
CAN HELP EACH
OTHER OUT.

FORGET
IT.

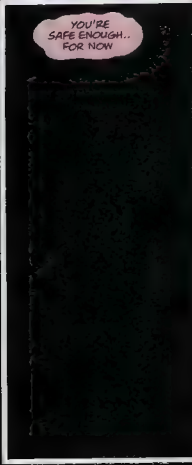
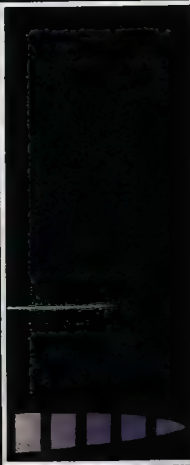


YOU'RE
PSYCHOTIC.

ONE MAN'S
PSYCHOPATH
IS ANOTHER'S
VISIONARY!



BESIDES, WHAT KIND
OF MAN LETS HIS WIFE
AND CRIPPLED DAUGHTER
REMAIN HERE?



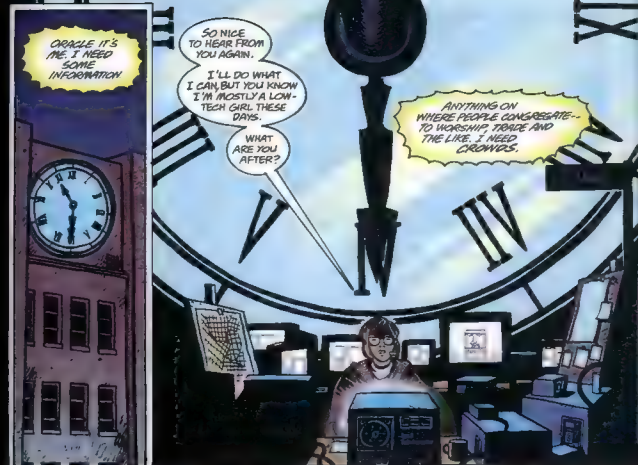
ORACLE IT'S
ME. I NEED
SOME
INFORMATION

SO NICE
TO HEAR FROM
YOU AGAIN.

I'LL DO WHAT
I CAN, BUT YOU KNOW
I'M MOSTLY A LOW-
TECH GIRL THESE
DAYS.

WHAT
ARE YOU
AFTER?

ANYTHING ON
WHERE PEOPLE CONGREGATE--
TO WORSHIP, TRADE AND
THE LIKE. I NEED
CROWDS.



... AN AUDIENCE,
YOU MEAN. NEWS
JUST DRINKS AROUND
HERE, DOESN'T IT?

YOU WANT
EVERYONE TO
KNOW YOU'RE
BACK... BIG
TIME!

CAN
IT BE
DONE?



IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT
I'VE HEARD A CERTAIN BIRD OF
OUR ACQUAINTANCE IS
THROWING ONE OF HIS
OCCASIONAL SOIREES

IT'S A REAL TIE
AND TAILS AFFAIR
FANCY CRASHING
IT?



I'M ALREADY THERE "

...XHOZA-- RED DEVILS--
WRECKERS-- STREET DEMONZ.
GANGS AND FORAGERS FROM
ACROSS GOTHAM, ALL PLAYING
NICE AS IF THEY'RE AT THE
COUNTRY CLUB.

WHAT'S
PENGUIN DOING
IN THERE?

ONLY ONE
WAY WE'LL FIND
OUT

THERE IS NO
"WE" I'M GOING
IN ALONE.

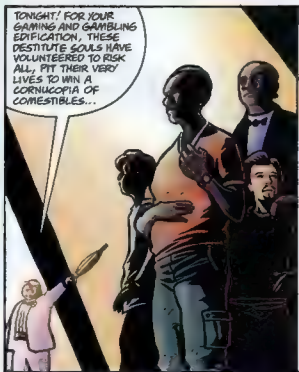
BUT

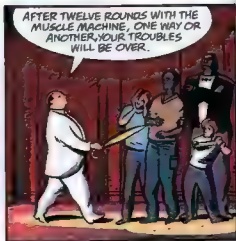
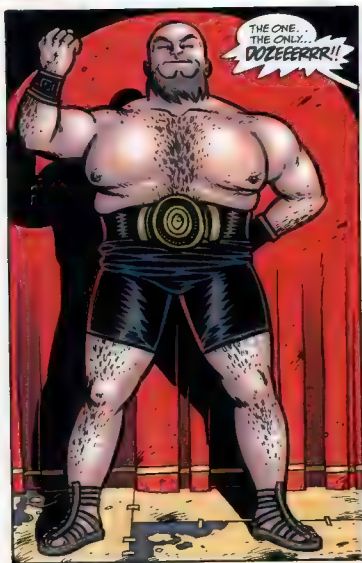
IT IS NOT
OPEN TO
DISCUSSION.

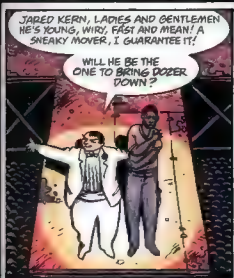
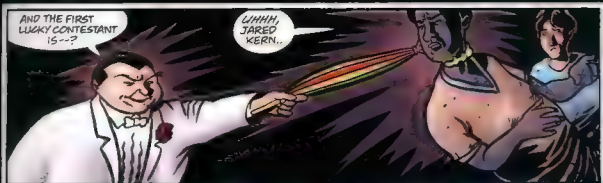
THIS IS MY
CALL, MY
RISK

IF I
DON'T MAKE
IT, GOTHAM'S
YOURS.

GEE,
THANKS







A full-page comic book illustration of Batman. He is standing on a dark, jagged rooftop edge, looking down with a serious expression. His black suit features a yellow bat emblem on the chest and a yellow utility belt. His long black cape flows behind him. The background is a dramatic, low-angle view of a city skyline at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and red light. A large, stylized 'X' made of dark, angular lines is superimposed over the scene. A speech bubble is located in the upper right corner.

THERE'S
A NEW GAME IN
TOWN, PENGUIN--
IT'S JUST YOU
AND ME

and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

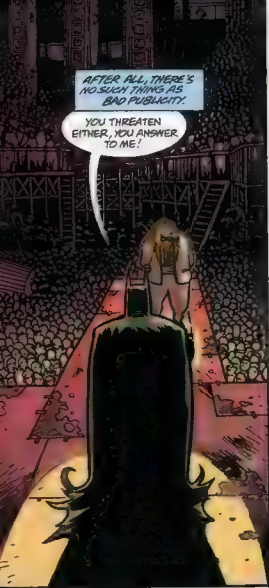
BREAD And CIRCUSES: Conclusion

I'M
BACK

IT'S TIME TO MAKE MY
MARK-- GIVE THEM SOME-
THING THAT'LL KEEP THEM
TALKING FOR A LONG TIME.

NOW
HEAR THIS!
THIS IS MY
CITY. MY
LAW.

Tim Eberkston - writer
D'Israeli - artist/colorist
John Costanza - letterer
TIGRA COSTANZA - letterer
JOSEPH CUNNEEN - separator
JORDAN B. GORDON - associate editor
DENNIS O'NEIL - group editor
BATMAN created
by Bob Kane



AFTER ALL, THERE'S
NO SUCH THING AS
BAD PUBLICITY.

YOU THREATEN
EITHER, YOU ANSWER
TO ME!



THAT GOT THEIR
ATTENTION...

WAH! WAH! WAH!
SURELY YOU
JEST!

LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN
DO ABOUT KEEPING IT.



YOU'RE
MISTAKING ME
FOR SOMEONE
ELSE!

WRUNG

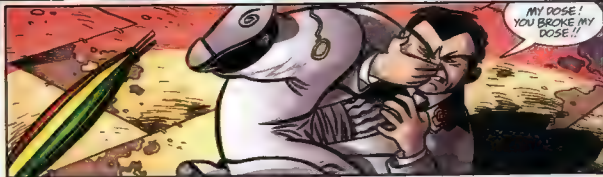


OOH, THAT'S
GOTTA SMART!

MEBBE
WE SHOULD DO
SUMPHTIN'?



NAH, DUDE.
IT'S THE BAT!
WE'RE IN
FOR A SHOW.
I WANNA SEE
HOW THIS
SCOPES!



MY DOSE!
YOU BROKE MY
DOSE!!



I'M JUST
GETTING WARMED
UP. CALL THEM
OFF!

I'MB OKAY...
BACK ID UP, BACK
ID UP!



THINGS ARE DIFFERENT
NOW, HERO-- DERE'S A
NEW PECKING ORDER.
YOU'RE NOD GETTING
OUD OF HERE ALIVE,
YOU KNOW!

THAT
DEPENDS ON
YOU, OSWALD--
ON HOW EAGER
YOU ARE TO DO
BUSINESS.



BIZNIZ?

A
WAGER.

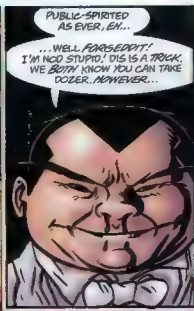
YOU?

ME



I'LL GO UP AGAINST YOUR
PIT BULL. I WIN, YOU ABANDON
THESE BOUTS, PERMANENTLY.
GIVE THESE PEOPLE FOOD IN
EXCHANGE FOR WORK.

YOU WIN, YOU
GET TO BE THE BIRD
WHO KILLED THE
BAT



PUBLIC-SPiRTED
AS EVER, EN...

...WELL, FORSEDDIT!
I'M NOD STUPID! DIS IS A TRICK.
WE BOTH KNOW YOU CAN TAKE
DOZER. NOWEVER...



GOOD QUESTION
DO I HAVE A CHOICE?



I CAN'T AFFORD TO UNDER-
ESTIMATE HIM AGAIN



NEWS OF MY RETURN
WILL SPREAD LIKE
WILDFIRE FROM THIS
PLACE.

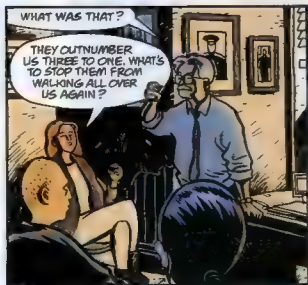


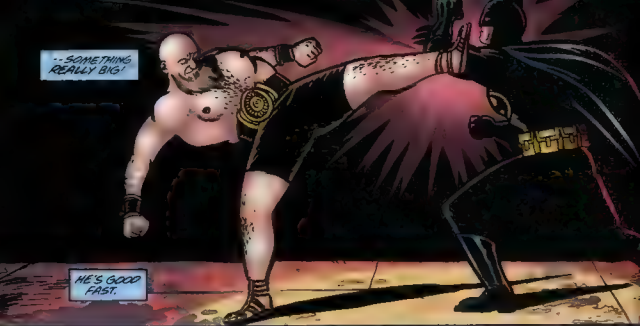
WELL?

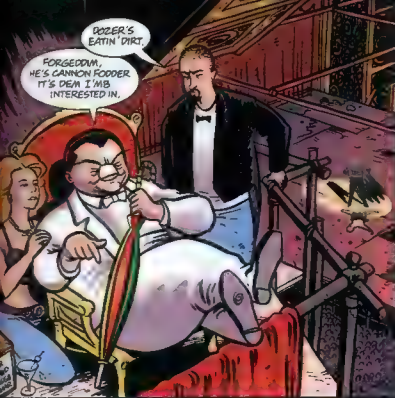
LIKE I SAID, DO
I HAVE A CHOICE?



YES







What are you

You've done it now! My sources
report the streets are buzzing

Almost every gang
tribe and posse are
on the way to
Davenport

Watch out

THE BUGS AND VERMIN
SURE ARE CRAWLING
OUT OF THE WOOD-
WORK TONIGHT...

"... I HAVE A
BAD FEELING
ABOUT THIS "

CALL ME
CLICKED, BUT IT'S
JUST TOO DAMN
QUIET!

WE'RE HIP DEEP IN THEIR
TERRITORY. THE XHOSA AND
WRECKERS SHOULD BE ALL
OVER US BY NOW!

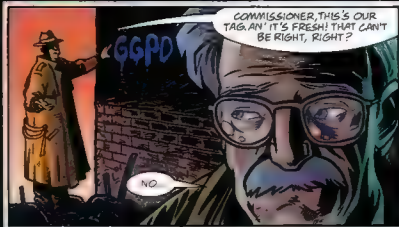
AND YOU'RE
COMPLAININ'?

CAN
WE SPELL
"AMBUSH"?

SIR, THERE S WORD
OF SOMETHING BIG
OCCURRING, A
MAJOR TURF WAR.
IT COULD BE A RUSE
TO SUCKER US IN

I DOUBT THAT,
RENEE, I...

HOLY..!



HGGNN!

DOES IT
HURT? POOR
BABY, BE OVER
SOON.

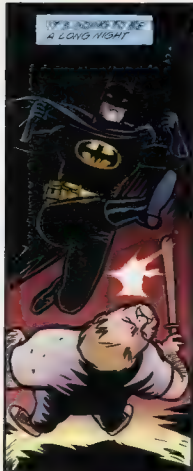
GOTHAM HAS
BECOME AN
ANTHROPOLOGIST'S
DREAM...

...A LIVING,
BREATHING TEST
BED OF DARWINIAN
THEORY.

SURVIVAL OF
THE FITTEST

.. AND
THEN
SOME.

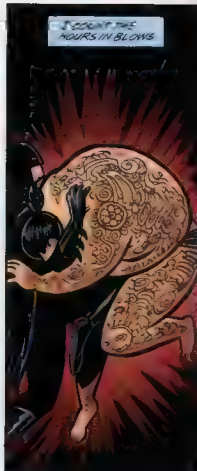
IT'S GOING TO BE
A LONG NIGHT



KRAK!



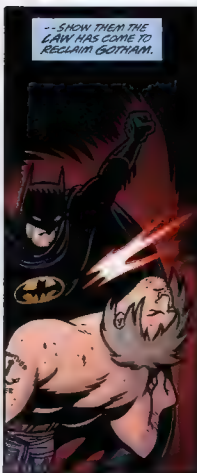
I COUNT THE
HOURS IN BLOWS

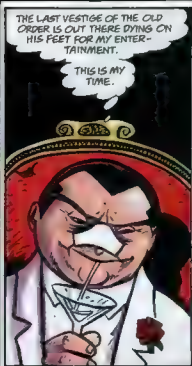


I HAVE TO SHOW THEM



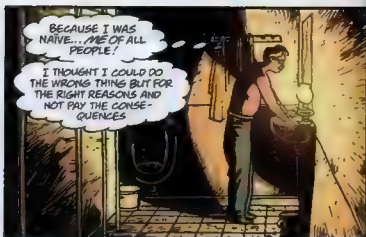
-- SHOW THEM THE
LAW HAS COME TO
RECLAIM GOTHAM.





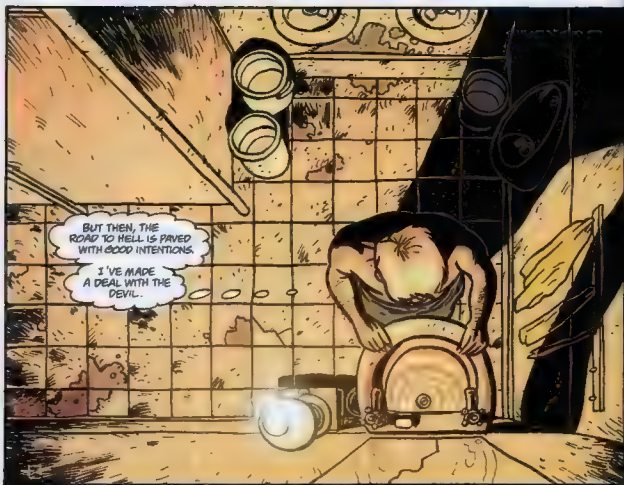


GOOD LORD...
HOW COULD I HAVE
LET THIS HAPPEN?



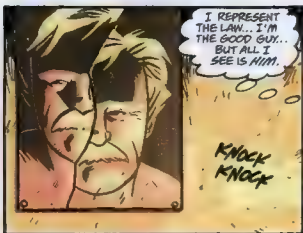
BECAUSE I WAS
NAÏVE... ME OF ALL
PEOPLE!

I THOUGHT I COULD DO
THE WRONG THING BUT FOR
THE RIGHT REASONS AND
NOT PAY THE CONSEQUENCES



BUT THEN, THE
ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED
WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.

I'VE MADE
A DEAL WITH THE
DEVIL..



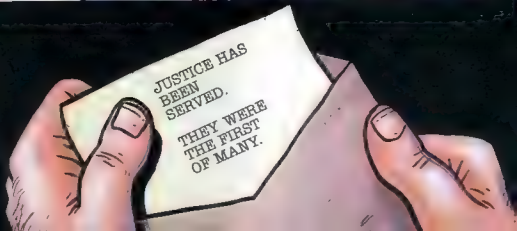
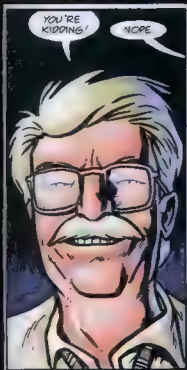
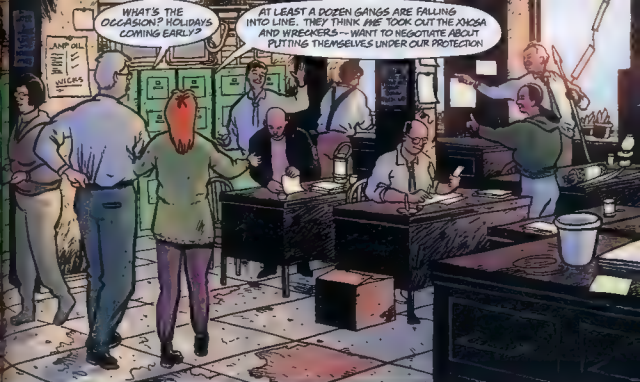
I REPRESENT
THE LAW... I'M
THE GOOD GUY...
BUT ALL I
SEE IS HIM.

KNOCK
KNOCK



GOT
A MINUTE
JIM?

SURE. I'M
COMING



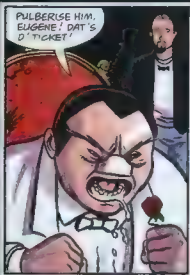


BOSS, WE GOT
SOMETHIN' OF A
SITUATION HERE

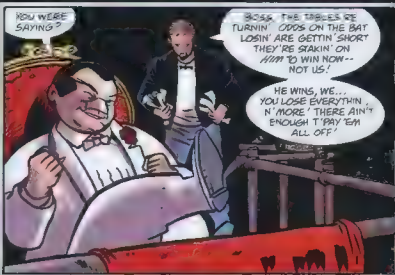


WHAT KIND OF
SITUATION?

WELL, I CHECKED
AN' TALLYED ALL THE
FIGURES AN' YOU'RE
RIGHT. ALL THE NEW
FACES POURIN' IN ARE
BETTIN' THROUGH THE
ROOF. WE'RE BRINGIN'
IN A FORTUNE.



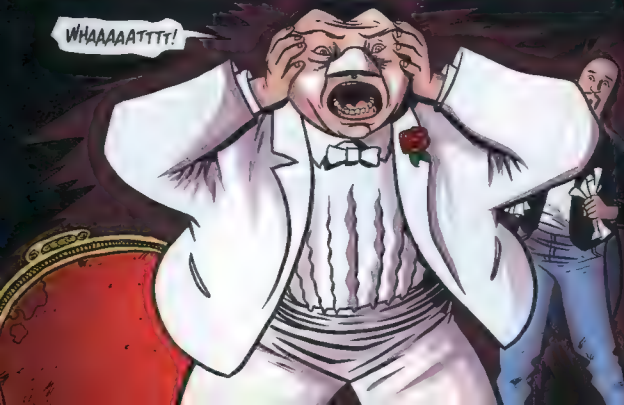
PULBERISE HIM,
EUGENE! DAT'S
D' TICKET!



YOU WERE
SAYIN'?

BOSS, THE TABLES RE
TURNIN'. ODDS ON THE BAT
LOSIN' ARE GETTIN' SHORT.
THEY'RE STAKIN' ON
HIM TO WIN NOW--
NOT US!

HE WINS, WE...
YOU LOSE EVERYTHIN'
N' MORE! THERE AIN'T
ENOUGH T' PAY 'EM
ALL OFF!



WHAAAAATTTT!



DAT'S
ENOUGH!
UNHAND HIM,
YOU CUR!



I AM CALLIN'
AN END TO DIS
CHARADE!

GENTLE PATRONS,
I HAVE SOME DIS-
TRESSING DEVS! DE
BADMAN, GOTHAM'S
SO-CALLED DARK
KNIGHT, IS NUDING
BUT A RODEEN
CHEAT!



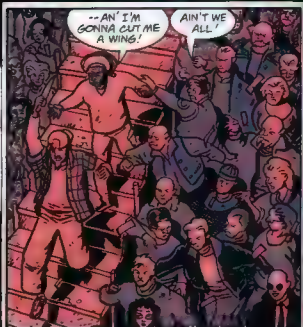
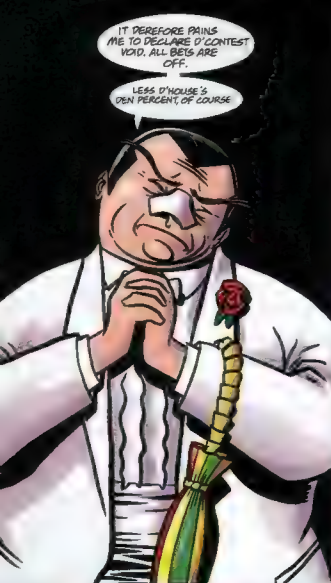
WASSE
TALKIN'
BOUT?

THIS
I GOTTA
HEAR



AS MY REGULAR CUSTOMERS
KNOW, DESE BOUTS ARE DEATH
MADCHES... BUT HAS HE KILLED?
BAIMED? BUTILATED ANY-
ONE? NO!

HE HAB CHEATED YOU
OF YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.



HE'S GONE.
THEY ALL HAVE. THE
BIRDS HAVE FLOWN
THE COOP.

IT'S
JUST YOU,
ME. .



YOU HAD DIS
PLANNED ALL
ALONG, DIDN'T
YOU?

SOMETHING
LIKE IT.

SO, WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?!

INFORMATION
WHOEVER, WHATEVER
PASSES THROUGH HERE,
I WANT TO KNOW
ABOUT IT. DATES.
TIMES. DETAILS.

IT'S BUSINESS
AS USUAL EXCEPT YOU
REMEMBER WHO'S
REALLY IN CHARGE
HERE.

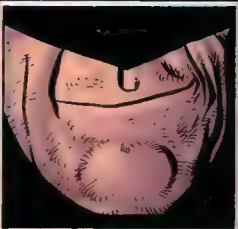
WELL ?

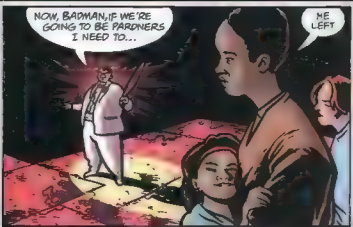
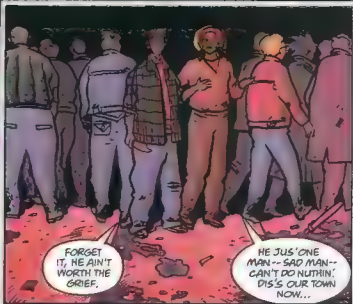


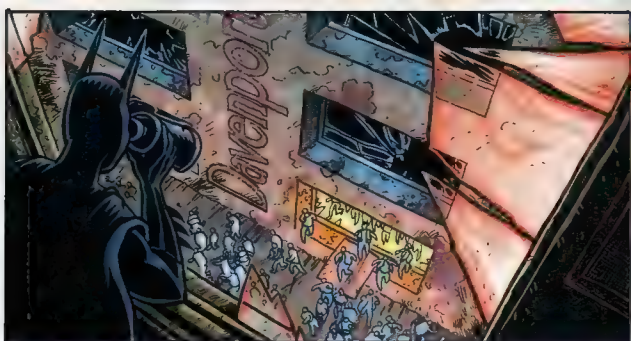
DON'T
MESS WITH
US, FAT BOY'S
OURS. HE
OWES US

YOU'LL
GET YOUR
GOODS BACK
AND THAT'S
ALL.

NO ONE
TOUCHES
HIM.







OH NO, NO...
I DON'T LIKE
THE LOOK
OF THIS...



...I DON'T
LIKE IT ONE--
OH!



WHAT'S
NOT TO
LIKE?



...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND



EVERYTHING
IS DIFFERENT,
NOW.



IDENTITY
SHATTERS.
GOTHAM'S MINE.
YOURS.



NO MASKS. NO
DISGUISES. ONLY
SHARDS.



WE ARE REVEALED
AS WHAT WE HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN.

NOTHING

A MOSAIC
OF PIECES



WE ARE GOTHAM'S
TRUE FACE. WE ARE
GOTHAM STRIPPED
BARE.



ALL WHO SEE
MUST KNOW

AND THOSE
WHO DO NOT SEE,
THEY MUST BE
PURGED.

AMEN.

GREG RUCCA - FRANK TERAN
writer artist

GLORIA VASQUEZ - WILDCAT STUDIOS
colorist color separations

JOHN COSTANZA - JOSEPH ILLIDGE
letterer associate editor

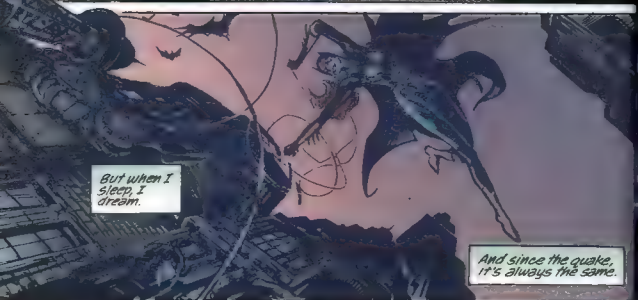
DARREN VINCENZO - DENNIS O'NEIL
editor group editor

BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE

MOSAIC PART ONE



When it's quiet,
I can sleep--



But when I
sleep, I
dream.

And since the quake,
it's always the same.



I remember
who I was.

-- ALE,
COME IN,
ORACLE--

And I have to
remind myself
who I am



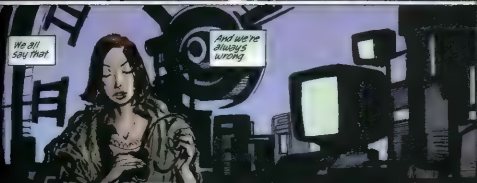
GO AHEAD,
REX.

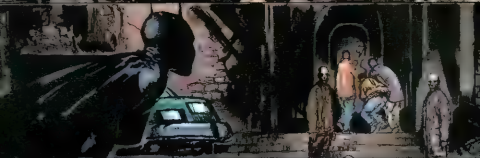


SECTOR'S QUIET
LOOKS LIKE A CROWD'S
FORMED IN THE OLD
WAYNE OMNITECH
BUILDING. COULD BE
HIM. SHOULD I CHECK
IT OUT?

GO
AHEAD, BUT
BE CARE-
FUL.

HEY,
SOOTHASAYER--







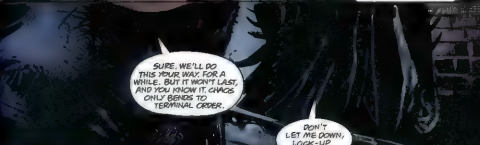
TURNED ANOTHER
EIGHTEEN AWAY TODAY. THEY'RE
ALL TRYING TO GET IN HERE.
SAY IT'S THE ONLY SAFE
PLACE LEFT.

KEEP THEM OUT. PERPS
COME IN. NO ONE ELSE.



DON'T HAVE TO TELL
ME THAT TWICE. NICE THAT
YOU'RE FINALLY SEEING
THINGS MY WAY--

UNDERSTAND-- I
LEARN THAT YOU'VE
TAKEN A SINGLE LIFE, NO
MATTER WHOSE, AND
THAT'S WORTH NOTHING.



SURE, WE'LL DO
THIS YOUR WAY, FOR A
WHILE. BUT IT WON'T LAST,
AND YOU KNOW IT. CHAOS
ONLY BENDS TO
TERMINAL ORDER.

DON'T
LET ME DOWN,
LOCK-UP.



KIDDING ME?
I WAS BORN FOR
THIS

SO, WHAT
DOES HE SAY
NOW?

HE'S IN
DENIAL,
LIVING HIS
FANTASY

BUT HE'LL
LEARN SOON ENOUGH
NOTHING'S THE
SAME--

SHAKE-
DOWN,
MAGGOTS!
DON'T MAKE
US BUST
HEADS!

EVERYTHING'S
CHANGED."

THE PERIMETER'S
HOLDING, JIM. FOLEY'S
STILL MAKING NOISE ABOUT
YOUR PRIORITIES, BUT
IT'S NOTHING.

WOO?

OH--
GUTTERREZ
FOUND ANOTHER
THREE

PAINT
EM OVER,
SARAH

OF COURSE. YOU
REALIZE THAT WE'LL
EVENTUALLY RUN
OUT OF PAINT?

THEN WE'LL BURN
THEM OFF, OR SCRAPE 'EM.
EITHER WAY, THEY GO. WAS
THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

ONE MORE
THING

WHAT?

WHEN
ARE YOU GOING
TO STOP ACTING
LIKE A PETULANT
BRAT?

I'M NOT
PETULANT,
SARAH

IT DOES
MORE HARM
THAN GOOD TO
KEEP PAINTING
OVER BAT--

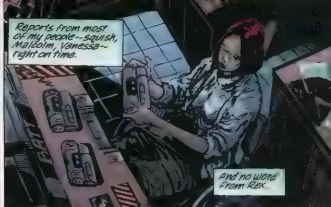
--DON'T
FINISH THAT
SENTENCE'

--BATMAN

COME
BACK
HERE'



Daylight
now



Reports from most
of my people--squish,
Malcolm, Vanessa--
right on time.

And no word
from Rex.



Of course
I'm worried.

Since Black Monday,
wheels and rubble
don't really mix--

-- MY TURF!
YOU ALL PAY YOUR
TRIBUTES TO
ME!

YOU
THE
BOSS!

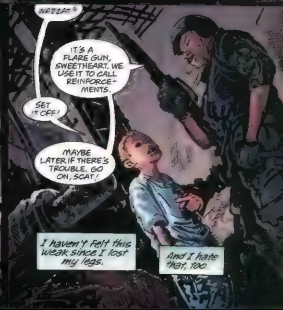
I WANNA BE
ENFORCER



The irony is a killer.
This tower may be
the most defensible
position in the city.

So I'm safe.

But I'm
trapped.



WATZAT?

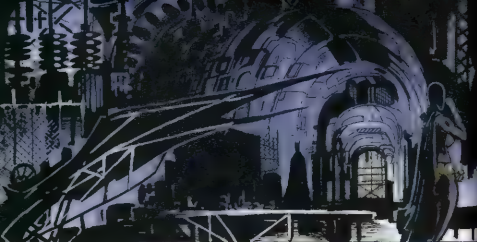
IT'S A
FLARE GUN,
SWEETHEART. WE
USE IT TO CALL
REINFORCE-
MENTS.

SET
IT OFF!

MAYBE
LATER IF THERE'S
TROUBLE. GO
ON, SCAT!

I haven't felt this
weak since I lost
my legs.

And I hate
that, too





HE TOOK
TWO MORE
BUILDINGS LAST
NIGHT

BUILT BY
WAYNE?

WAYNE
BUILDINGS ARE
THE ONLY ONES
LEFT STAND-
ING.

SIT
REALLY
WIDE?

DON'T LET
THAT HAPPEN
KEEP THE TOWER
SAFE.

I COULD
USE A LITTLE
HELP

I'M NEEDED
ELSEWHERE YOU'RE
ON THIS ALONE

PROTECT
THE TOWER AND
TRY NOT TO BE
SEEN.



HE'S
CHANGED, BUT
THERE'S NO MIS-
TAKING THAT
FACE

-- HE'S
DIFFERENT, TOO.
SCARIER, LIKE
HE'S GOT NOTHING
TO LOSE.



AND HE'S
GOT MUSCLE.
FIFTY PEOPLE,
PROBABLY
MORE. SOME
SORT OF CULT.

I THINK
HE'S MOVING
SOUTH--

-- WHICH WILL PUT HIM UP
AGAINST GORDON'S
BLUE BOYS.



HE'S GOING
FOR THE TOWER.
IT REPRESENTS
OLD GOTHAM
! IT REPRESENTS
WAYNE. HE'LL
EITHER TAKE IT
OR DESTROY IT.



I CAN DO
ONE OR THE
OTHER, NOT
BOTH.

THEN
YOU'RE NOT
WORTHY OF
THE MANTLE

OF COURSE,
YOU COULD PROVE
ME WRONG--



PROBLEMS?

52

I WON'T
BE LONG



DON'T YOU GET
SPLINTERS IN YOUR
LIP OR SOME-
THING?

I'LL
SPLINTER YOU,
LOWELL, YOU
GIVE ME
GRIEF.

DOWN,
BOY! IT'S CALLED
A SCISSOR.



WHERE

... BUT IT MAKES YOU
WONDER WHERE HIS
PRIORITIES ARE, DOESN'T
IT? I MEAN, TROUBLE
WITH THE WIFE, WORRY-
ING ABOUT HIS GIRL...

KEEP IT UP, FOLEY,
AND I'LL GIVE YOU
A SPLINTER YOU
DON'T WANNA
KNOW WHERE!

IT'S NOT
HIS FAULT.
GORDON'S BEEN
GIVING BAD
VIBES...

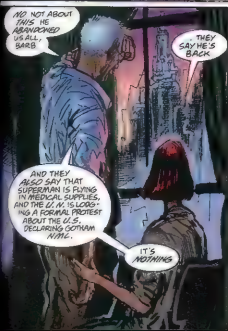
... OUR DEAR,
FORMER, COMMUNIS-
TICHER HAD ANOTHER
FIGHT WITH THE
MISSILES--

DOESN'T
MEAN SQUAT
FOLEY

... MAYBE HE ISN'T
THINKING ABOUT US
SO MUCH, YOU
KNOW?

MAYBE HE
THINKS WE'RE
JUST, AH, I
DURING... EX-
PENDABLE?

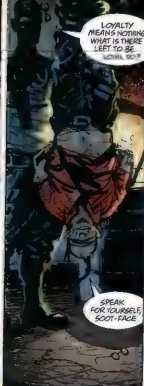
EASY,
HARVEY...





...FLASHLIGHT,
KNIFE, GRANOLA BARS
AGAIN, I ASK, WHERE'D
YOU GET THEM?

BITE
ME, FREAK
SHOW



LOYALTY
MEANS NOTHING
WHAT IS THERE
LEFT TO BE
LOYAL TO?

SPEAK
FOR YOURSELF,
SOOT-FACE



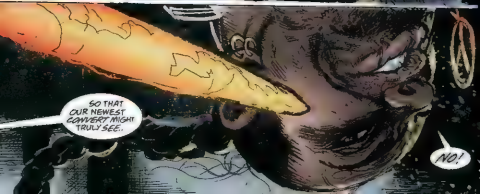
WE
SHALL OBLIVION
YOUR
FACADE



LIKE US, YOU
WILL BE REVEALED
TRUE.

AND LIKE
US, YOU WILL
UNDER-
STAND

REMOVE
HIS
BLINDFOLD...



SO THAT
OUR NEWEST
CONVERT MIGHT
TRULY SEE.

NO!

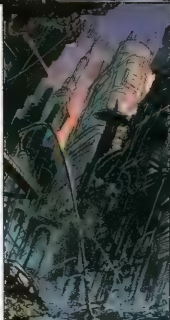
GHAAAAH!

ENOUGH
NOW.

...DO
YOU
SEE?

...MUM.
HU-NUM.
ROT IN
HELL, YOU--

--THEN
WE SHALL
CONTINUE





TUNG THUNG TUNG THUNG

NG
THUNG
THUN

TUNG THUNG TUNG TU

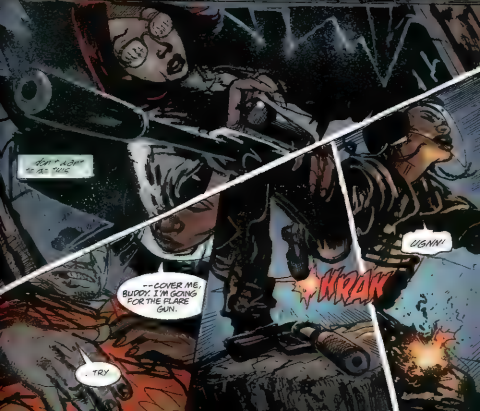
-- From the street?







What are they waiting for?



Don't have to do this

--COVER ME, BUDDY. I'M GOING FOR THE FLARE GUN.

TRY

USNN!

KRAK





Wear Black Mask

What little was left... he's lost it completely...

...and he's brought others along for the ride...



YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO SURRENDER

IT'S A CULT...

...SO MANY OF THEM...

...A MAN controlled in MADNESS...



SURRENDER THIS, BABY!

FIVE...

FOUR

... TOO MANY FOR THE BLUE BOYS... NEVER ACTIVE IN TIME ANYHOW

MAN controlled by HIS madness

... OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN.



and I can only think of one way to stop them...

... THREE...

Dad.. Oh, Dad, Forgive me

TWO..

WAP-KLEEN



ONE...



NO...



HERE'S
A THOUGHT
USLY...

.. WHY DON'T
YOU GET PAST
ME FIRST?

...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called

NO MAN'S LAND

Here's a hoody ol' chestnut for you, Babs...

...EVERYTHING changes, nothing-- and we're talking NOTHING-- stays the same...

And it goes without saying that when those moments come-- those moments that change it all--



-- YOU'RE ALWAYS unprepared... and it doesn't matter how bad you think it might ALREADY be...

... it can always

... Always...



get worse

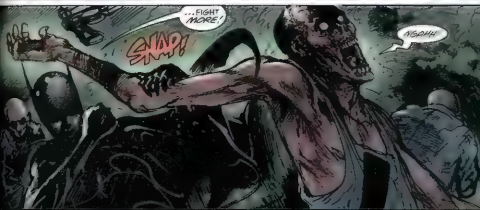
MOSAIC . PART TWO

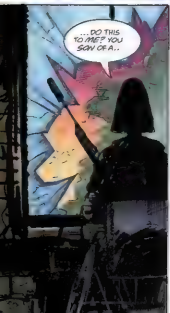
YOU CAN
STAY DOWN, OR
YOU CAN FALL
DOWN.

... BUT I
GUARANTEE
YOU WON'T BE
GETTING UP
AGAIN.

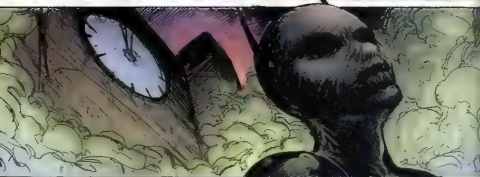
GREG RUOKA - FRANK TERAN
writer artist
GLORIA VASQUEZ - WILDSTORM STUDIOS
colorist color separations
JOHN COSTANZA DARREN VINCENZO
letterer editor
JOSEPH ILLIDGE - DONNIS O'NEIL
associate editor group editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE





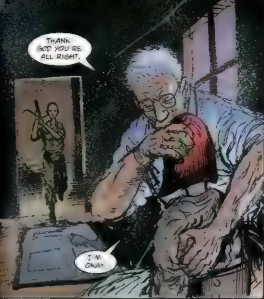


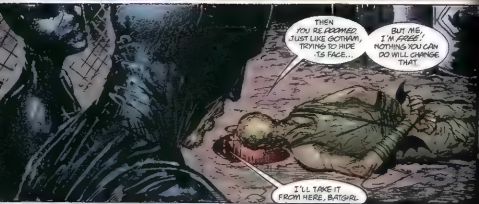














...OUT OF
HERE! ONLY CRIMINALS,
UNDERSTAND?

PLEASE!
IT'S *CRAZY* IN
THE CITY, YOU'VE
GOT TO LET
US IN!



I'M
BRIGADIER
YOU?

PERPS
ONLY NOW
LEAVE



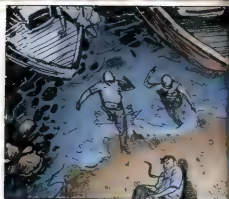
...FINE, JUST
FINE...



...THEN
I'LL BE A
PERP...



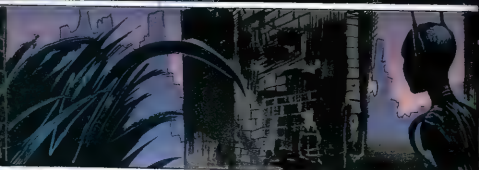
BEAST,
TAKE CARE
OF HIM!







YOU DO WHAT
I SAY, WHEN I SAY
IT. OTHERWISE
YOU'RE OUT.

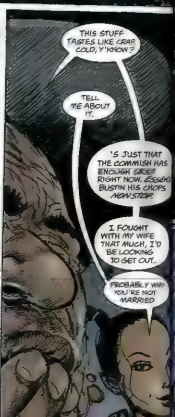


NOTHING BUT
TROUBLE

FOLEY?

HE'S A WRONG
GUY, RENEE.
WHEN WE SHOULD
BE PULLING
TOGETHER HE'S
ALWAYS GROANIN'
'BOUT HOW WE'RE
FALLIN' APART.

HE'S JUST
CALLING IT AS
HE SEES IT,
HARV



THIS STUFF
TASTES LIKE CRAP
COLD, Y'KNOW?

TELL
ME ABOUT
IT.

'S JUST THAT
THE COMMISSION HAS
ENOUGH STUFF
RIGHT NOW. GORDON
BUSTIN HIS CHOPS
NEW YEAR

I FOUGHT
WITH MY WIFE
THAT MUCH, I'D
BE LOOKING
TO GET OUT.

PROBABLY WHY
YOU'RE NOT
MARRIED



--YOURSELF
PEACE! YOU ABANDONED
YOUR ARMS, YOU LEFT LOWELL
ALONE!

I'VE HALF
A MIND TO CUT
YOU TWO LOOSE,
LET YOU TRY AND
SURVIVE OUT THERE
ON YOUR OWN!

WE WERE
OUTNUMBERED
WHAT WERE
WE--

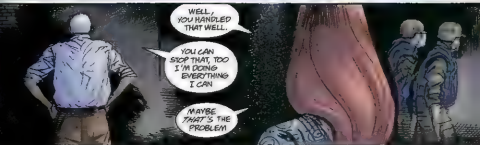


SHUT
UP!

TOMORROW
MORNING, BOTH OF
YOU ARE ON SEWAGE
DUTY. DIGGING
LATRINES. UNDER-
STOOD?

YES,
SIR.

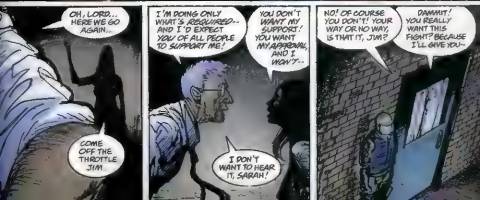
NOW
GET OUT OF
MY SIGHT



WELL,
YOU HANDLED
THAT WELL.

YOU CAN
STOP THAT, TOO
I'M DOING
EVERYTHING
I CAN

MAYBE
THAT'S THE
PROBLEM



OH, LORD...
HERE WE GO
AGAIN...

I'M DOING ONLY
WHAT'S REQUIRED--
AND I'D EXPECT
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE
TO SUPPORT ME!

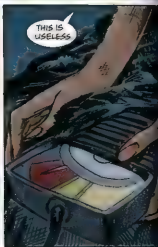
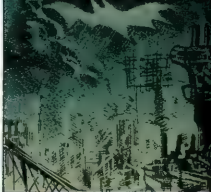
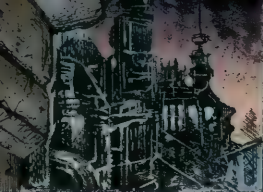
YOU DON'T
WANT MY
SUPPORT!
YOU WANT
MY APPROVAL,
AND I
WOULDN'T...

NO! OF COURSE
YOU DON'T! YOUR
WAY OR NO WAY,
IS THAT IT, JIM?

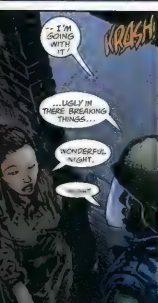
DAMNIT!
YOU REALLY
WANT THIS
FIGHT? BECAUSE
I'LL GIVE YOU--

COME
OFF THE
THROTTLE
JIM

I DON'T
WANT TO HEAR
IT, SARAH!













AND SO HE
SAYS "TRUST
ME"

AND THE TRUTH IS,
I DON'T KNOW HOW
NOT TO.



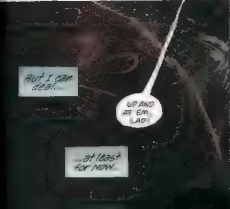
SO MUCH WORK
STILL TO DO.

ONLY A FOOL WOULD
THINK IT COULD BE
DONE ALONE.



FOOL LIKE
ME, MAYBE

I DON'T LIKE IT THAT
SHE'S OUT THERE,
MAKE NO MISTAKE



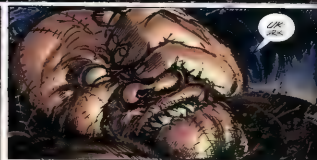
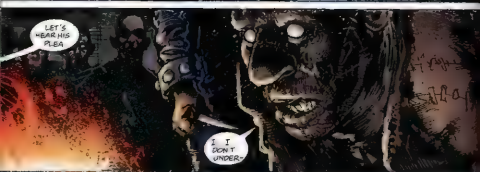
BUT I CAN
DEAL.

UP AND
AT EM,
LAD!

...AT LEAST
FOR NOW.

WHAT?

NOW, THAT
JUST ~~KNOW~~ I DO.
STAND UP STRAIGHT
BEFORE THE COURT!



...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**

Home Sweet Home

THE BRUTAL TURF WARS CONTINUE IN THE NO MAN'S LAND ONCE KNOWN AS GOTHAM.

ON THIS EVENING, THE ZSASZ GANG IS RE-CLAIMING A BLOCK THEY LOST TO THE KILLER CROC GANGS LAST WEEK.

BUT AN UNEXPECTED GUEST IS CRASHING THE PARTY.

LISA KLINK • writer
GUY DAVIS • artist
PAUL RAMBO • colorist
JOHN COSTANZA • letterer
JOSEPH ILLIDGE • 2nd co. editor
JORDAN B. GORFINKEL • editor
DENNIS O'NEIL • group editor

BATMAN created by
BOB KANE

CRUNCH

SMASH

A dynamic comic book panel showing Batman in his iconic blue and black suit with a yellow utility belt, engaged in a physical struggle with a man wearing a light-colored trench coat. Batman is in a defensive stance, holding the man's arm. The background is a dark, urban street scene with buildings and a crowd of people.

BATGIRL HAS FAGED LONG ODDS
BEFORE, AND ON THIS VERY STREET
NOT EVEN A DAY AGO. SHE DOES
SO NOW AGAIN, HEROICALLY.

A comic book panel showing Batman from a high angle, looking down at a man in a trench coat who is lying on the ground, seemingly unconscious or dead. The scene is set in a dark, urban environment with a crowd of people in the background.

SHE THOUGHT
SHE'D STOPPED
THEM.

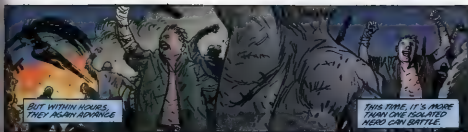
BUT WITHIN HOURS
THEY'D ADVANCED AGAIN

A comic book panel showing Batman standing in the center of a dark street, facing a large crowd of men. Many of the men are holding weapons like batons or knives. The scene is lit with a dramatic, low-key light, emphasizing the tension of the confrontation.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS
HAPLESS NEIGHBOR-
HOOD NEED A HERO,
AND SHE IS WILLING
TO SERVE

A close-up comic book panel of Batman's face. He is wearing his signature black cowl with the bat emblem. His expression is serious and determined. The background is a warm, orange-hued sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

BUT HEROISM ALONE IS
NOT ENOUGH IN THE GOTHAM
CITY OF TODAY, AMPUTATED
FROM THE BODY OF SOCIETY
AND LEFT TO ROT.



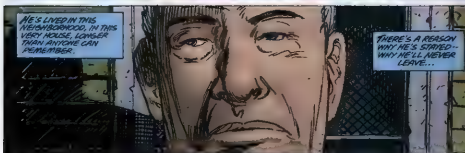
BUT WITHIN HOURS,
THEY AGAIN ADVANCE

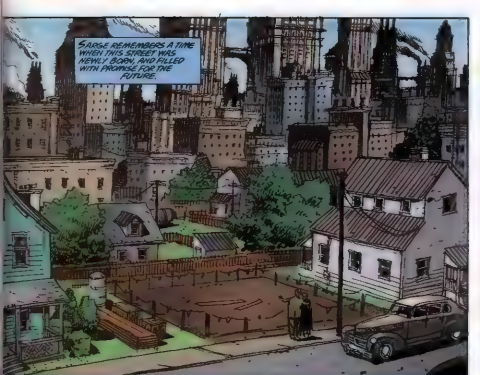
THIS TIME, IT'S MORE
THAN ONE ISOLATED
HERO CAN BATTLE.



THE FIRST ORDER OF
BUSINESS IS MARKING
THEIR NEW TERRITORY







SARGE REMEMBERS A TIME
WHEN THIS STREET WAS
NEWLY BORN, AND FILLED
WITH PROMISE FOR THE
FUTURE.



IN THE GIDDY, POST-
WAR DAYS, ANYTHING
SEEMED POSSIBLE



WITH A PLOT OF LAND
AND DREAMS OF A FARMER,
THE YOUNG SERGEANT
AND HIS NEW BRIDE
BEGAN TO BUILD
THEIR FUTURE
LIFE...

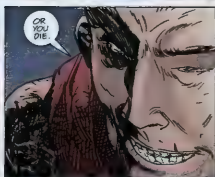


...AND THEIR
FUTURE HOME,
FROM THE
GROUND UP.



THE ONLY THING MISSING
WAS CHILDREN... WHICH
NEVER CAME.







EVERY INSTINCT URGES
SARGE NOT TO HUMBLE
HIMSELF IN FRONT OF
THIS MONSTER.



WOULD THE
OTHERS FOLLOW
HIS EXAMPLE OF
DEFIANCE?



OR WOULD HIS
DEATH ONLY PROVE
HIS FUTILITY?

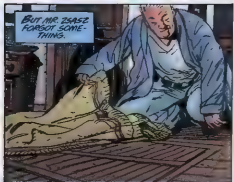
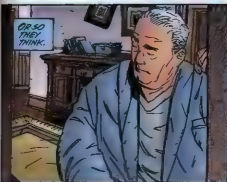
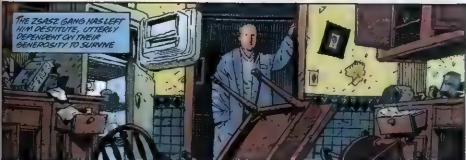


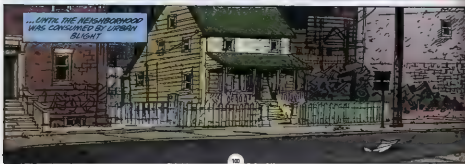
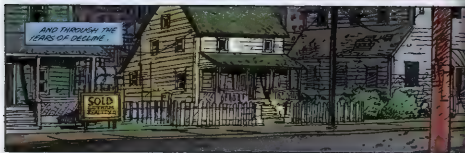
TAKE
YOUR
TRIBUTE



SMART
CHOICE









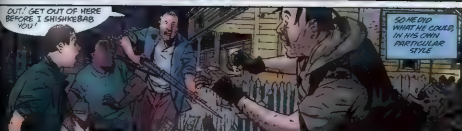
EVEN THE CHILDREN
FELL UNDER THE SPELL OF
DESTRUCTIVE INFLUENCES.



BUT SARGE HAS
ALWAYS BELIEVED
THE ADAGE --



"ALL THAT'S REQUIRED
FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH
IS FOR GOOD MEN TO
DO NOTHING."



OUT! GET OUT OF HERE
BEFORE I SHISHKEBAB
YOU!

SO HE DID
WHAT HE COULD,
IN HIS OWN
PARTICULAR
STYLE



AND DON'T
COME BACK!

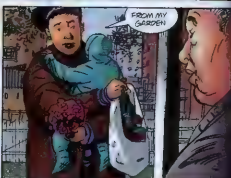
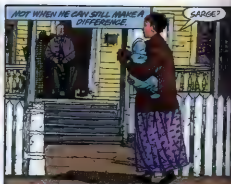
SARGE NEVER
IMAGINED THAT
HIS THREATS
WERE REALLY
SOLVING ANY-
THING.



GO HOME,
STEVE



BUT HE KNEW THE VALUE
OF SHOWING THAT HE WOULD
STAY AND FIGHT.





THIS TIME OF CRISIS HAS
BROUGHT THE REMAINING
NEIGHBORS TOGETHER...



...THE SAME WAY THE
WAR UNITED SOLDIERS
AND CIVILIANS UNDER
FIRE.

SOMETIMES,
SARGE FEELS
LIKE HE'S BACK
ON THE BATTLE-
FIELDS OF A FAR-
AWAY LAND...



GET THESE PEOPLE IN
THE BUILDING AND
MOVE OUT!

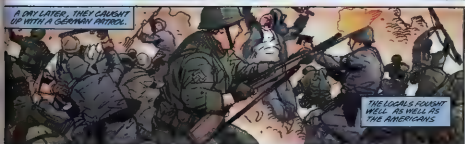
SARGE--!



THESE GUYS ARE
THE LOCAL RESISTANCE
FIGHTERS. FROM THE
TOWN HERE. THEY
WANNA COME
WITH US.

I DON'T
KNOW...

ONLY
TELL 'EM TO
FALL IN BEHIND
OUR MEN.



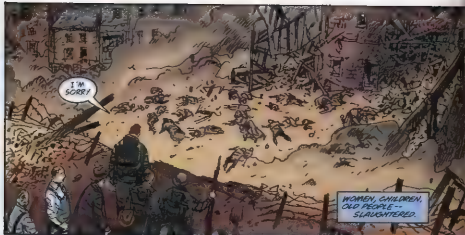
A DAY LATER, THEY CAUGHT
UP WITH A GERMAN PATROL.

THE LOCALS FOUGHT
WELL AS WELL AS
THE AMERICANS



AND WHEN
THEY RETURNED
TO THE VILLAGE--

I GUESS THERE
WERE SOME NAZIS WE
DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.



I'M
SORRY!

WOMEN, CHILDREN,
OLD PEOPLE --
SLAUGHTERED.



HE'S ALWAYS WONDERED
WHAT WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED IF HE'D
TOLD THE LOCALS
TO STAY AT HOME...



SOON, A NEW BAND
OF MARAUDER'S
MARCHES INTO THE
NEIGHBORHOOD.

MR FREEZE LEADS
A SOMEWHAT
MORE BENEVOLENT
OCCUPATION FORCE.



BUT IT'S AN
OCCUPATION
NONETHELESS.

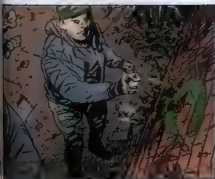


STILL, THERE'S ALWAYS
THE HOPE OF LIBERATION.

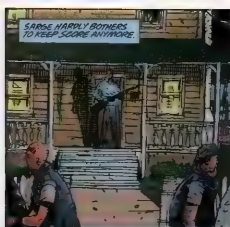


THE "BLUE BOYS" -- FORMER
GOTHAM CITY COPS.

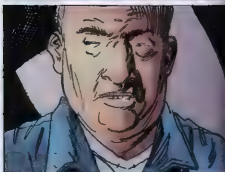
BUT EVEN THEY CAN'T
HOLD OUT AGAINST THE
KILLER CROG GANG WHO
RE-ESTABLISH CONTROL
OF THEIR TURF.



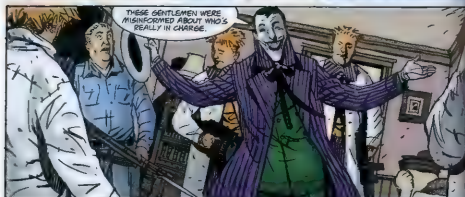
AND THE CYCLE
OF VIOLENCE
COMES FULL
CIRCLE.



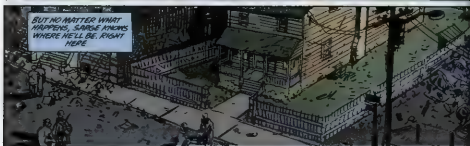
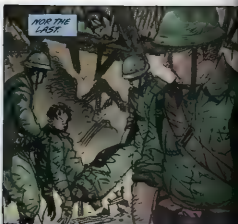












...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**



I DON'T
KNOW IF THIS
IS SUCH A GOOD
IDEA



KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER IF WE FIND
OUT WHO IT IS, WE'LL
BE MORE POWERFUL
THAN WE WERE
BEFORE



I
JUST DON'T
LIKE GOING
BEYOND OUR
BOUNDARIES



THEN GO
HOME

NO
I GUESS
I WANT TO
FIND OUT
TOO



READY
TO PLAY
POSSUM?



YES



AND NOW
WE WAIT



THAT'S
IT



FREEZE
BAT.

A full-page comic book illustration of Batman standing in a city of rubble. He is wearing his iconic black suit with a yellow bat emblem on the chest and a gold utility belt. He has his hands on his hips and a stern expression. The background shows a city with smoke rising from the ground and damaged buildings. In the bottom right corner, there is a small inset panel showing a close-up of a man's face.

--MAN?

WELCOME,
DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS FROM TRICORNER
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR
TERRITORY

TO WHAT
DO I OWE THE
VISIT?

SUCH
HOSPITALITY.
WELL, YOU'RE
WELCOME IN
MY
TERRITORY
ANY TIME,
COMMISSIONER
GORDON.
THAT GOES
FOR ALL
YOUR GANG.
BUT I'D
PREFER IT IF
YOU DIDN'T
SNEAK AROUND
LIKE
CRIMINALS



CURIOSITY



THE WHITE FLAG IS THE TRADITIONAL SYMBOL FOR SURRENDER, NOT THE CROSS-BOW

YOU THERE, BEHIND THE RUBBLE? STEP OUT AND LOWER YOUR WEAPON



WHO ARE YOU?

I'M ON YOUR SIDE, ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

SO YOU'VE BEEN DOING THE TAGGING?

EXACTLY



ARE YOU WORKING WITH HIM? FOR HIM?

SOMETIMES OTHER TIMES I'M AN INDEPENDENT OPERATOR



THEN HE'S HERE? BACK IN GOTHAM?

BATMAN? YES HE'S HERE

I KNEW IT



GIVE HIM A MESSAGE FROM ME.

TELL HIM I DON'T WANT HIM AROUND.

TELL HIM I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM OR TALK TO HIM

TELL HIM TO STAY THE HELL OUT OF MY TERRITORY.

I'LL TELL HIM, BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE HE'LL LISTEN



AND YOU STAY OUT OF MY TERRITORY AS WELL... WHOEVER YOU ARE



COULD BE DANGEROUS



GOOD NIGHT PEOPLE

YOU DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT, DID YOU?

NAH, NOT.

NO? WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK?

DAMMIT, WHY ARE YOU TAKING HIS SIDE?

HOW COULD I? THE NERVE OF A NEW "BATGIRL" TALK ABOUT DISRESPECT! IT'S AS IF HE'S SPITTING ON ME.

MAYBE THIS NEW BAT-GIRL WASN'T HIS IDEA.

IT IS TO ME.

I'M NOT TAKING SIDES. I'M A DETECTIVE SO I'M TRYING TO ANALYZE FACTS AND THE FACT IS, THIS SITUATION MAY NOT BE EXACTLY BLACK AND WHITE.



ANOTHER FACT IS, YOU'RE SPENDING A LOT OF ENERGY INVENTING REASONS WHY YOU'RE BEING SLIGHTED, VICTIMIZED BY YOUR FORMER ALLY. NONE OF WHICH ARE BACKED UP BY HARD EVIDENCE.

SARAH DO YOU THINK HE'LL SHOW UP HERE?

AND I THINK HIS NOT SHOWING UP MAY DISTURB YOU MORE THAN IF HE DOES.

I'LL BECOME MORE SELF-RELIANT AND THAT'S THE BEST THING RIGHT NOW.

FOR YOU, PERHAPS BUT FOR THE CITY?

AFTER HE GETS YOUR MESSAGE? NO.

I DON'T NEED HIM AND I CAN'T DEPEND ON HIM, AND IF HE'S NOT HERE THEN I WON'T BE TEMPTED TO DEPEND ON HIM.





BRING
THAT SHIPMENT IN
TOMORROW NIGHT. CANDLES
ARE IN VERY HIGH DEMAND
AROUND HERE



NOW,
WHAT'S SO
IMPORTANT
THAT YOU HAD
TO SEE ME
NOW?



THIS--THE
MANUFACTURING
CODE SHOWS IT WAS
CANNED AFTER
GOTHAM WAS SHUT
DOWN

...?



SO HOW
DID IT GET
HERE?



I SCORED TWO CASES
FOUR DOZEN CANS, ALL
UNDAMAGED. TRADED
A GROSS OF CIGARS
FOR 'EM. GUYS SAID HE
COULD PROBABLY GET
MORE



ONE
CAN? IT'S
AN ANOMALY
MAYBE IT FELL
OUT OF A
PLANE.



YOU'RE SUGGESTING
THAT SOMEONE ELSE
HAS FIGURED A WAY
TO BRING GOODS INTO
GOTHAM? GOODS THAT
WE DON'T CONTROL?

EXACTLY



IN OTHER WORDS,
I HAVE A
COMPETITOR

YES



NO! COMPETITION THREATENS
THE VERY FABRIC OF WHAT WE
HAVE HERE! WE MUST FIND
THIS COMPETITOR AND
DESTROY HIM!

STAY ON
IT!

I WANT
TO KNOW
MORE!

YES,
SIR



DAMN!
THIS CITY'S
GOING TO
HELL



RIGOR MORTIS THE STINK
OF THE CORPSE HE'S BEEN
DEAD AT LEAST THREE DAYS

WHAT'S
YOUR GAME,
KID?

GAME?

THIS
MAN WAS
ALREADY
DEAD. YOU
DIDN'T
KILL
HIM.

BUT I--

DID YOU?

NO!
I DIDN'T
KILL HIM!
I FOUND HIM
FEET FRASSED
HIM HERE
PRETENDED.

WHY?

BECAUSE I COULDN'T TAKE
IT! THIS PLACE IS HELL!
LOOK AT MY FACE! THEY CUT
ME! FOR FUN! BUT THEN I
HEARD BLACKGATE'S SAFE...
FOOD, SHELTER, PROTECTION.
I HEARD THAT'S WHERE THE
MURDERERS GO! SO THAT'S
WHERE I WANNA GO!

YOU'RE NO
MURDERER

WHAT KINDA HERO
ARE YOU, TURNING
YOUR BACK ON
PEOPLE LIKE ME?
WHY SHOULD
MURDERERS GET
ALL THE BREAKS?
I'M A GOOD
GUY! WHY DON'T
I GET TO BE
SAFE TOO?

BUT YOU
HAVE TO PUT
ME IN PRISON,
BATMAN! YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO PROTECT
US, RIGHT? KEEP US
SAFE? WELL, IF
BLACKGATE'S SAFE,
YOU HAVE TO PUT
ME THERE!

IF I
DIE, IT'LL
BE YOUR
FAULT!

MY
BLOOD'LL
BE ON YOUR
HANDS.



IS HE RIGHT? I'M NOT
SURE. THIS SORT OF
THING COULD NEVER HAVE
HAPPENED "BEFORE..."



DISTRACTED... I
ALMOST MISSED
THE MESSAGE



IT SOUNDS LIKE
A BABY

wa-aahh-aaa

A large panel showing Batman in a dark, tattered suit with a yellow utility belt, crouching in a city of rubble. In the background, a man and a woman are arguing. A baby lies on the ground.

"HE'S MY
BABY."

"NO HE'S
MINE! YOU
KIDNAPPED
HIM!"

"I FOUND
HIM ALONE! CRY-
ING! THERE WERE
RATS IN THERE! I
SAVED HIM!"

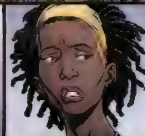
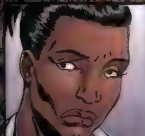
"I WENT
OUT TO FIND
FOOD! I WAS
COMING BACK!
I DIDN'T KNOW
THERE WERE
RATS!"

"TO LEAVE
A BABY ALONE
THAT PROVES
YOU'RE AN
UNFIT
MOTHER!"

"I'M THE ONLY MOTHER
HE'S GOT! WHEN HIS
REAL MOTHER DIED,
SHE MADE ME
PROMISE TO TAKE
CARE OF HIM!"

"DO SOME-
THING, BATMAN.
UPHOLD JUSTICE!
THAT'S YOUR JOB,
ISN'T IT?"

"SO HE
DIDN'T
REALLY
BELONG TO
EITHER OF
YOU?"



BUT I SHOULD HAVE HIM BECAUSE I'LL BE A BETTER MOTHER! SHE ABANDONED THE CHILD--CHILD ENDANGERMENT IS AGAINST THE LAW!

SHE'S RIGHT. I'VE DEALT HARSHLY WITH PARENTS WHOSE NEGLIGENCE HAVE PUT THEIR CHILDREN IN DANGER

I HAD HIM FIRST, AND SHE'S A KIDNAPPER! SHE CAN'T BE A MOTHER! KIDNAPPING IS AGAINST THE LAW!

SHE'S RIGHT. IT'S A HEINOUS CRIME. I'VE NEVER BEEN LENIENT WITH KIDNAPPERS

"NO WOMEN. EACH BELIEVES SHE'LL BE A BETTER MOTHER. WHAT TO DO?"

I TAKE A PAGE FROM THE WISDOM OF KING SOLOMON.

YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT AND YOU'RE BOTH WRONG. HALF AND HALF. SO I'M GOING TO CUT THE CHILD IN HALF--

ONE PART FOR EACH OF YOU THAT'S FAIR.

THE ONE WHO BEGS ME NOT TO KILL THE CHILD, THE ONE WHO'D RATHER GIVE UP THE CHILD THAN SEE HIM HURT, SHE WILL BE THE BEST MOTHER

THAT'S MURDER! YOU'LL BURN IN HELL!

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH MY BABY!

IT'S MY BABY!

CLEARLY WHAT WORKED IN THE KINGDOM OF SOLOMON DOESN'T APPLY TO GOTHAM

THEN I'LL TAKE THE CHILD MYSELF. NEITHER OF YOU CAN HAVE HIM.

WE TOOK MY BABY! THIS IS YOUR FAULT, WITCH!

IT'S YOUR FAULT! YOU'RE UNFIT AND THIS PROVES IT!



A BABY?
WHOSE
IS IT?



RIGHT I
WONTASK

I SAW AN
OLD FRIEND
OF YOURS
LAST NIGHT
JAMES
GORDON



HE ASKED ME
TO GIVE YOU A
MESSAGE

STAY
AWAY, YOU'RE
NOT WELCOME
IN HIS
TERRITORY



GORDON
SAID
THAT?



WITH NO GREY
AREAS FOR
INTERPRETA-
TION, WHAT'S
THE STORY?
WHY WOULD
HE SAY
THAT?



RIGHT
JUST
THOUGHT
YOU'D
LIKE TO
KNOW

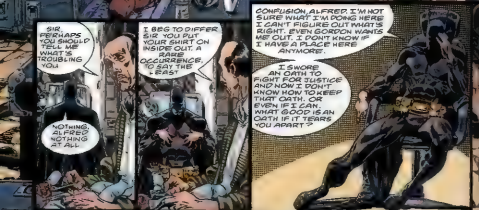




ANYTHING
WRONG, SIR?

NO

I JUST
NEED A
SHOWER



SIR,
PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD
TELL ME
WHAT'S
TROUBLING
YOU

I BEG TO DIFFER
SIR, YOU PUT
YOUR SHIRT ON
INSIDE OUT. A
RARE
OCCURRENCE,
TO SAY THE
LEAST

NOTHING,
ALFRED
NOTHING
AT ALL

CONFUSION, ALFRED, I'M NOT
SURE WHAT I'M DOING HERE.
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S
RIGHT. EVEN GORDON WANTS
ME OUT. I DON'T KNOW IF
I HAVE A PLACE HERE
ANYMORE.

I SWORE
AN OATH TO
FIGHT FOR JUSTICE
AND NOW I DON'T
KNOW HOW TO KEEP
THAT OATH. OR
EVEN IF I CAN.
WHAT GOOD IS AN
OATH IF IT TEARS
YOU APART?



YOU
REMINDE
ME OF
YOUR
FATHER

MY
FATHER?

ONCE, WHEN
HE WAS VERY
TROUBLED, HE
BEGAN TAKING
EXTRA SHOWERS
MIDDAY. HE
PUT HIS SHIRT
ON INSIDE
OUT, TOO.

TELL
ME

TAKE
OFF
YOUR
MASK

WHY?

BECAUSE A
STORY ABOUT
DOCTOR THOMAS
WAYNE SHOULD
BE TOLD TO HIS
SON BRUCE

AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE,
YOUR FATHER WORKED
THREE NIGHTS A WEEK AT
A CLINIC IN BURNLEY.



ONE NIGHT, AS HE WAS
CLOSING UP, THERE WAS
AN EMERGENCY.



MY SON--
HE'S VERY SICK!
YOU MUST COME,
DOCTOR!



THE PROGNOSIS WAS GRIM.
THE BOY NEEDED A
PARTICULAR DRUG
IMMEDIATELY IF HE WAS TO
HAVE EVEN AN OUTSIDE
CHANCE TO SURVIVE.

THE NEAREST
HOSPITAL WAS
TOO FAR AWAY--



THERE WAS A
PHARMACY AROUND
THE CORNER WHICH
MIGHT HAVE THE DRUG,
BUT IT WAS CLOSED.



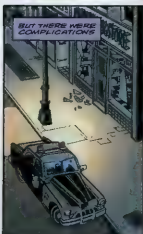
HE HAD TAKEN AN
OATH TO DO ALL IN
HIS POWER TO HEAL
THE SICK.

DID THAT INCLUDE
BREAKING AND
ENTERING? IT WAS
AN UNCOMFORT-
ABLE DILEMMA.



HE MADE HIS DECISION.







THE NEXT DAY HE GOT A PHONE CALL AT HIS OFFICE...

DR. WAYNE?
LOU PECK OF
PECK'S DRUGS.
I GOT YOUR
NOTE.

IS
THERE A
PROBLEM?

YES A
VERY SERIOUS
PROBLEM.

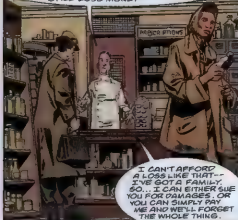


THERE WAS NO MONEY
WITH THE NOTE, AND
MY REGISTER WAS
BROKEN INTO.

YOU'RE NOT
ACCUSING
ME?

NO.

I ASSUME THIEVES CAME BY, SAW THE WINDOW, CAME IN AND HELPED THEMSELVES. I'M NOW OUT \$780, PLUS THE COST OF THE WINDOW. IF I REPORT IT TO MY INSURANCE COMPANY, THEY'LL RAISE MY RATES. AND WITH \$500 DEDUCTIBLE, I'LL STILL LOSE MONEY.



I CAN'T AFFORD
A LOSS LIKE THAT--
I'VE GOT A FAMILY.
SO... I CAN EITHER SUE
YOU FOR DAMAGES, OR
YOU CAN SIMPLY PAY
ME AND WE'LL FORGET
THE WHOLE THING.

ANOTHER DILEMMA.
ANOTHER DECISION. IT
SEEMED BLACK AND
WHITE. WHY GO
THROUGH THE
EMBARRASSMENT OF
A LAWSUIT WHEN
CASH WOULD EASILY
SOLVE THE PROBLEM?



YOUR FATHER
WAS A
TRUSTING
MAN. HE
PAID.



SEE THE
FUNNY CLOWN,
BRUCE?
FUNNY CLOWN?

AND THAT WAS THE END OF IT.
YOUR FATHER'S LIFE RETURNED
TOMORROW... FOR TWO WEEKS.



DR. WAYNE?
LOU PECK, THAT
INCIDENT THREE
WEEKS AGO?
TURNS OUT
THERE WAS A
POLICE REPORT.

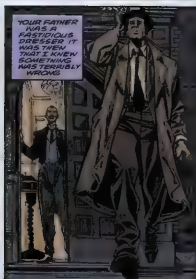


IT GOT BACK TO
THE INSURANCE
COMPANY.

THEY'RE
RAISING MY
RATES.



IF YOU DON'T WANT
ME TO GO TO THE
POLICE WITH THE
EVIDENCE THAT YOU
WERE RESPONSIBLE,
YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY
ME THE DIFFERENCE.





WOULD YOU
LIKE TO TELL
ME ABOUT IT
SIR?

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT

HE WAS AN INTERNAL
MAN, LIKE RATHER,
LIKE SON

ABOUT
MR PECK
SIR

ALL RIGHT, ALFRED
I NEED TO TELL
SOMEONE.
MARTHA WOULD
NEVER UNDER-
STAND. NOR
WOULD MY FATHER

HE TOLD ME
EVERYTHING

IN LONDON, I WAS AN AMATEUR ACTOR, SIR.
A STUDENT OF HUMAN NATURE, AND AS A
DOCTOR, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A SIMILAR
COGNIZANCE OF HUMAN NATURE.

MEANING?

YOU'RE NOT
THE CRIMINAL
SIR, MR PECK
IS.

YES AND
CRIMINALS ARE
A COWARDLY
LOT



I DON'T INTEND
TO PAY YOU ANY MORE
MONEY.

THEN I'LL
GO TO THE
POLICE



NO NEED--
I'VE
BROUGHT
ONE WITH ME
OFFICER
ALFRED?



MR. PECK FORGED MY NAME ON A
NOTE AND HAS BEEN BLACKMAILING
ME. I WANT YOU TO ARREST HIM IN
FRONT OF ALL HIS CUSTOMERS.

MAYBE
YOU CAN
ARREST HIM FOR
OVERCHARGING
US, TOO.



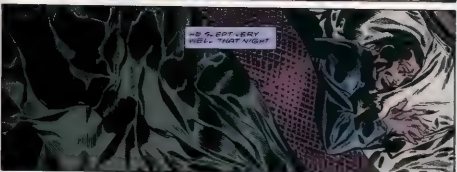
UH, LOOK,
DR. WAYNE, WE CAN
SETTLE THIS... IT'S
JUST A
MISUNDERSTANDING,
REALLY... I DIDN'T
REALLY MEAN ANYTHING!
I'LL PAY YOU
BACK!



THE NOTE YOU ...
FORGED, I WANT
IT.

OF
COURSE

OF
COURSE







TELL ME—WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO KEEP THIS BABY?

ANYTHING. ANYTHING I HAD TO DO, I'D DO.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO KEEP THE BABY?

I'D DO ANYTHING SHE WOULD AND MORE.

THEN I'VE DECIDED YOU ARE BOTH TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD.



BUT I DON'T TRUST HER!

AND I DON'T TRUST HER!

I THOUGHT **ROS** BOTH SAID YOU WERE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING?



WELL, "ANYTHING" MEANS YOU HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHILD.

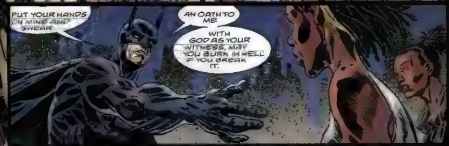


BECAUSE IN THIS PLACE, A BABY NEEDS TWO PARENTS, NOT JUST ONE. WHEN ONE OF YOU IS LOOKING FOR FOOD, THE OTHER CAN BE WITH THE CHILD.

AGREED?

YEAH.

OKAY.



PUT YOUR HANDS ON MINE AND SWEAR.

AN OATH TO ME.

WITH GOD AS YOUR WITNESS, MAY YOU BURN IN HELL IF YOU BREAK IT.

I SWEAR I
WILL TAKE
CARE OF THIS
CHILD

I SWEAR
IT AS
WELL

TAKE GOOD
CARE OF HIM
AND TAKE CARE
OF EACH OTHER
OR ELSE NO
ONE WILL
SURVIVE

I'M GONNA SHORT FOR
GENEVIEVE

CATHERINE,
CATHY, AND
HIS NAME'S
THOMAS

THOMAS
NEEDS TO BE
CHANGED

YES
WE
DOES

HE MAY BE
BATMAN BUT
HE DOESN'T
KNOW MUCH
ABOUT
BABIES

NO, BUT I THINK
MAYBE HE KNOWS
SOMETHING ABOUT
PEOPLE

SHADES OF GREY

BOB GALE
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PHIL WINSLADE
PENCILLER

PHIL WINSLADE & SAL BUSCEMA
INKERS

ELLIE DE VILLE
LETTERER

PAMELA RAMBO
COLORIST

WILDSTORM FX
SEPARATOR

JOSEPH ILLIDGE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JORDAN B. GORFINKEL
EDITOR

DENNIS O'NEIL
GROUP EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE

AFTER THE CATASTROPH,
BEFORE NO MAN'S LAND...

I'M SO
TIRED

I DON'T THINK
I'VE *EVER* BEEN
THIS TIRED."

-- FORTY-EIGHT OFF
RECHARGE *REST*. YOU'VE
BEEN NONSTOP SINCE THE
INITIAL QUAKE, AND YOU'RE
ALMOST DEAD ON YOUR
FEET..

I'M FINE, SR--

-- NOT LISTENING,
DETECTIVE. IF I HAVE
TO, I'LL *SUSPEND*
YOU. NOW GET OUT
OF HERE. THAT'S
AN ORDER.

AND IF I SEE YOU
BEFORE YOU'RE DONE
WITH YOUR TWO DOWN,
I'LL HAVE THE NATIONAL
GUARD SHOOT YOU.

..YES,
S.R.

...TAKE IT SO
BAD COMMISH
SAID THE SAME
THING TO ME.

SO WHERE
YOU GONNA GO
TURTLE

DUNNO

TWO DOWN

A TALE ON THE ROAD TO NO MAN'S LAND

GREG RUCKA
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DIGITAL CHAMELEON
COLORIST / SEPARATIONS

RICK PARKER
LETTERER

"MAYBE
HOME..."



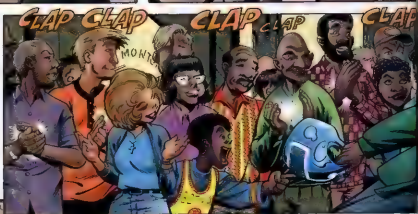




< MIGUELITO...
I TSK-TSK E STILL
DON'T KNOW HOW
TO SHARE, HUH? >



< TAKE YOUR RATION
AND GET OUT OF MY
PARENTS' STORE. >



CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP



< WAVING
THAT GUN
AROUND LIKE
THAT! >

< WORKED,
THOUGH, DIDN'T
IT, POPPA? >



< IT'S EMPTY,
ANYWAY. I RAN
OUT OF BULLETS
TWO DAYS AGO. >

< OUR DAUGHTER,
SHE SHOULD PLAY
POKER FOR A
LIVING. >

< BETTER THAN BEING IN
THE POLICE. COPS HAVEN'T
EVEN BOTHERED WITH
THIS PART OF TOWN SINCE
THE EARTHQUAKE! >



< USELESS. >

< POPPA, WE'VE BEEN BUSY. IT'S A BIG CITY-- >

< SO BIG THE NATIONAL GUARD DOESN'T COME TO US, EITHER? WE'RE ALONE UP HERE. WHERE DO WE GO FOR HELP, EH, RENEE? >



< NOWHERE! WE HELP OURSELVES, SAME AS ALWAYS! >

< ENOUGH, HERNANDO. SHE'S EXHAUSTED. LET HER BE. >

< YOU'LL FORGIVE HIM? HE'S WORRIED. HE TAKES IT OUT ON EVERYONE. FIRST, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, NOW WE CAN'T FIND YOUR BROTHER-- >

< BENNY? HE'S AT SEA, HE'S ON HIS CARRIER-- >

< NO, NO, HE HAD A LIBERTY, RENEE. HE GOT HOME JUST BEFORE THE QUAKE-- >



< --WENT OUT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, TO HELP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD... >

< HE HASN'T COME BACK. >

< ALL THE LOOTERS THE AFTERSHOCKS >

< ...MAYBE HE WON'T EVER COME BACK... >



< I'LL FIND HIM, POPPA! >



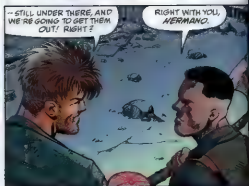
THAT'S EASIER
SAID THAN DONE

AND HERE I
AM, SUPPOSED
TO BE GETTING
SOME...



...REST.

"THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD
MAYBE LOOTERS?"



-- STILL UNDER THERE, AND
WE'RE GOING TO GET THEM
OUT! RIGHT? RIGHT?

RIGHT WITH YOU,
HERMANO.

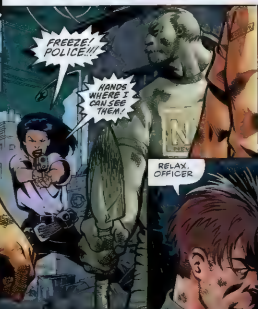


GET THAT SHOVEL
OVER HERE. COME
ON! MOVE!

SOUNDS LIKE
BENNY--

LET'S
START
DIGGING

-- BUT THAT
OTHER GUY
I KNOW
THAT VOICE

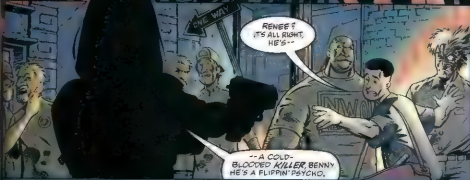


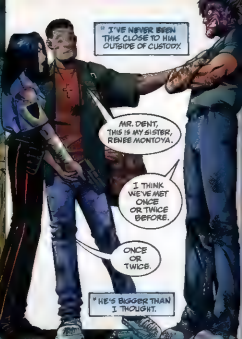
FREEZE!
POLICE!!!

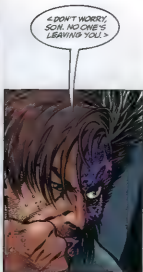
HANDS
WHERE I
CAN SEE
THEM!

RELAX,
OFFICER









"DAWN, AND I STILL
DON'T KNOW WHAT TO
MAKE OF HIM."

AGENCY
GRAPHICS

BLUEPRINTS
SIGNS &
COPIES CALLS
51 COPIES
DISH & WATER

ASR US
CHECK
CASH
L2

...ALMOST
CAN
REACH...

"AND I'M NOT THE
ONLY ONE"

4 THANK YOU!
OH, THANK YOU,
GOD BLESS YOU! >

"I'M TOO
TIRED NOW..."

COULD
BE OTHERS
IN THERE.
WE SHOULD
LOOK.

IT'S SAFER IF WE
WORK IN GROUPS OF
TWO. ONE PERSON
CAN WATCH OUT FOR
THE OTHER.

DETECTIVE?

"OR ELSE I NEVER WOULD'VE
AGREED TO IT..."

"I HATE HAVING
HIM BEHIND ME.

"HELP!"

SOMEONE--
OVER HERE

WARNING
EXCESSIVE
WEATHER
DANGER, REMAIN
CALM, STAY
UNDER COVER

HEY--!
YOU COMING?

SHINE
IT
HERE

KA
TING
TING
TING
TING

"I KNEW IT! JUST
A MATTER OF TIME...

< HELP!
PLEASE!
ANYBODY! >

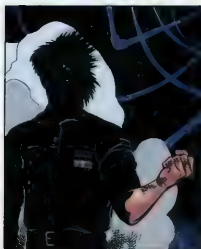
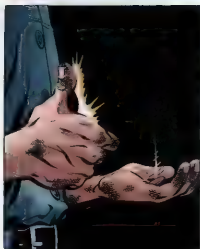
SHUT
UP!

SHINE IT
HERE!

--OF AVERAGES,
OF

"... LUCK?"





“...WORRYING
US CRAZY!”

“...HAD TO
HELP POP
THEY WERE
IN TROUBLE!”

“ I HURT...

THEREFORE, I
AM.

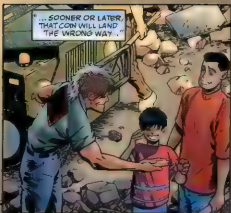
MORNING
SUNBEAM!

“ RENEE,
HOW DO YOU
FEEL? ARE
YOU...? ”

“ -- THE OLD
MAN! HE'S GOING
TO BE FINE, WS...? ”

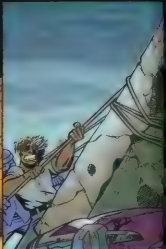
“ -- CHILDREN
ARE STUPID,
BOTH OF THEM,
TAKING RISKS! ”

“ WHAT'S
GOING ON
IN YOUR
HEAD. ”



WE'RE AT
"ALL NOW"

"HE LAW
DEMAND
WILL SO
NENT"





THREE TIMES
I REACH FOR
MY GUN



AND THREE
TIMES IT STAYS
IN MY HOLSTER



IT'S MAKING MY
STOMACH HURT,
BECAUSE I KNOW
I KNOW..."





SOMETHING'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN

AND IT'LL
ALL END



THERE'S NOTHING
FOR YOU HERE.
LEAVE.

TWO-FACE?

ASK HIM
TO JOIN, ASK
HIM. ANCK!



YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME?
WE WAS ON THAT BOAT TO
BLACKGATE THAT ONE TIME!
MICK WHITE! REMEMBER?

I REMEMBER

WHY'NT
YOU JOIN US,
MAN! WE COULD
GET SOME REAL
MONEY!

WHAT
SAY WE
TAKE A
CHANCE?

IT'S NOT CHANCE
IT'S NOT LUCK
IT'S JUST--

-- AVERAGES



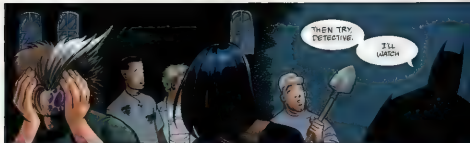
WADDYA
SAY, HUH?

I
SAY--









Harold

A man with curly blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue overalls, is running through a rocky, earthquake-torn landscape. He has a determined expression and is holding a small object in his hands. The ground is cracked and covered in rocks, with blue energy or light emanating from the cracks. The background shows a dark, rocky cliff face.

DENNIS
O'NEIL
WRITER

CHRIS
RENNOLD
PENCILLER

SAL
BUSCEMA
INKER

IAN
LAUGHLIN
COLORIST

CLEM
ROBBINS
LETTERER

HAROLD IS
REMEMBERING HIS
MOTHER WHEN THE
EARTHQUAKE BEGINS.

REMEMBERING
THE ICY VOICE--

GET OUT
OF MY SIGHT
DO YOU
HEAR ME?

--RISING TO
A SCREAM--

GET
OUT!

HER LAST WORDS TO HIM--



HE DOESN'T KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED JUST
THAT IT WAS BAD



VERY BAD. ALL THE THINGS--
THE THINGS BATMAN DEPENDS
ON HIM TO FIX--ARE RUINED



HE FINDS HIS
"TOOL KIT"



HE HAS A LOT
OF WORK TO DO.

THAT'S
GOOD
WHEN HE
WORKS, HE
IS HAPPY.

BUT AS HE IS
BEGINNING, HIS FRIEND
ALFRED COMES AND...

HAROLD
LAD, I WOULDN'T
BOTHR WITH
THAT NOW

THOUGH HE
CANNOT SPEAK,
ALFRED
UNDERSTANDS
HIM. BUT IT IS
BROKEN

I KNOW
BUT THERE ARE
MORE IMPORTANT
MATTERS TO
CONCERN ME

MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN FIXING
THINGS?

THEN
WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

PLEASE...
JUST GO AWAY UNTIL
I CALL YOU

GET
OUT!

HE HAS NOT
SEEN DAYLIGHT
SINCE BATMAN
BROUGHT HIM
TO THE CAVE

THE BREEZE IS
SHARP, COLD,
BUT HE BARELY
NOTICES IT

HE FEELS LIKE HE IS
LEAVING THE ONLY HOME
HE HAS EVER KNOWN.

HE IS LEAVING THE
ONLY HOME HE HAS EVER
KNOWN, THE ONLY REAL
HOME, AND SOMETHING
IS HEAVY IN HIS THROAT

HE HAS NOT
WANTED TO

HE
WALKS

NOTHING
ELSE
TO DO

THEN HE
SEES IT.



A CITY.
A WHOLE
CITY

BROKEN

NEEDING TO
BE FIXED.



HE HAS A LOT
OF WORK TO DO



WHEN HE WORKS,
HE IS HAPPY.

and

GOTHAM COUNTY

2

N

BRISTOL

Wayne
Museum

AMUSEMENT MILE

Sheldon Park

HEMINSVILLE

BOB KANE SOUND

0 1 2 3 Miles
GOTHAM CITY

Port Adams

Bel Sector	
Glenn-Mash	
Blue Boys (BOP)	
Fifth Sector	
Huntress	
Killer Croc	
Leviathan	
Lynch & Tride	
West Harbor	
MASH Sector	
Mr. Freeze	
Mr. Zeez	
Penguin	
Poison Ivy	
Scorcher	
Steel-Bottom	
Two Face	

GOTHAM HARBOR

Claim Jumping

Arms: **RUENA** **DEODATO** **FAUCHER** **TOWES** **WILDSTORM** **FX** **SCHUBERT** **ILLIDGE** **GORFINNEL**
 Writer: **Wilder** **Peacemaker** **1 star** **change** **color separation** **lettering** **artistic editor** **editor**

Group editor: **DENNIS O'NEIL** Batman created by **BOB KANE**

Ever think
seriously about it?

I mean REALLY
think about it?

What people will do
for land, for territory
they call their own?

We're talking down-
of-time, PRIMAL
motivations, here.

Will for land.

10/15

NML Day

Tail end of the worst winter
ANYONE can remember

...it's NOT—the winters of '88
AND '67 were FAR worse, and
that's just this century—

—but in '88 and '67, people
had central HEAT, or at least
standing SHELTER

when the river froze,
some thought it was
their way out

Nobody tries
to escape
anymore

So we wait
for spring
ALL of us

We wait

and
WAIT

and
WAIT

MOST of us do
at any rate

...AND
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU
OFFERING, MY BIPARTISAN
FRIEND?

A
SOLUTION TO
A MUTUAL
PROBLEM.

WE
DON'T HAVE TO
FIGHT.

IF YOU'RE
PROPOSING A SURRENDER,
HARVEY, I SHOULD CAUTION
YOU...

...BY ALL
REPORTS, MY
FORCES VASTLY
OUTNUMBER
YOURS.

BUT YOU CAN'T
ATTACK ME. YOU'VE
GOT A DEAL WITH
BATMAN. YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
PLAY NICE.

ONLY AS
LONG AS IT
SERVES
ME.

I
CAN GIVE
YOU HIS
LAND. KEEP
YOUR HANDS
CLEAN.

SUCH
LARGESSE
IS UNLIKE
YOU,
HARVEY.

MEANING,
MY CONFRERE,
WHAT'S IN IT
FOR YOU?

YOU
ALWAYS
WERE THE
SMART
ONE.

MEANING YOU TAKE PRESSURE
OFF MY NORTH BORDER. THAT
FREES MY MEN...

...TO GO
WEST.

GORDON'S ON
YOUR WEST...



ALL
DESTROY
M.M.

YOU DO
TAKE IT ALL PERSONALLY
DON'T YOU, HAREN?

.. AND
YOU CAN
DEAL WITH
BATMAN?

I
GUARANTEE
IT.

TWO
DAYS IS ALL
I NEED. THAT
AND SOME
HELP FROM
YOU.

WE'D
HOW?

SEVERAL THINGS.
WE START WITH A LITTLE FALSE
INFORMATION TO BAIT OUR
VIGILANTE...

NML, Day 128.

...uh,
COME IN,
ORACLE.

I'M HERE.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
GOT?

LET
ME TALK TO
HIM.

NOT
HERE.

I HAVE
NTE-
FOR
HIM.

GO
AHEAD, I
ACT FOR
HIM.

LOW-A
LITTLE TIGHT?
BRAIN NEEDS
MORE OXYGEN
MAYBE?

...DON'T LET
IT INTERFERE
WITH THE
JOB.

OF
COURSE I
DON'T LIKE
YOU...

...SEE, I KNOW
WHO YOU REALLY
ARE.

TELL
HIM TO CALL
ME.

ORACLE
OUT.

So I'm petulant
so SUE me



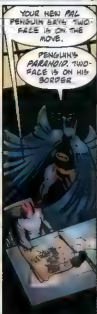
THAT WAS UNPROFESSIONAL.

I KNOW WHO SHE IS! DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT PROFESSIONAL!



I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

YOU HAVE INTEL?



YOUR NEW PAL PENGUIN SAYS TWO-FACE IS ON THE MOVE.

PENGUIN'S PARANOIA TWO-FACE IS ON HIS BORDER.



TRUE, BUT ONE OF MY AGENTS CONFIRMS THAT THERE'S SOMETHING BREWING AT CITY HALL.

SOMETHING ABOUT TRIAL BY COMBAT.

TWO-FACE BRAND JUSTICE, SOUNDS LIKE. TOMORROW NIGHT.



FIGURED YOU'D WANT TO CHECK IT OUT.

I WILL.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK?

NO.



...I THINK IT'S A TRAP.



...KHOSA WEST
AND PENGUIN TO THE
NORTH. IT'S A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE ONE OF
THEM WANTS OUR
WATERFRONT
PROPERTY.

WE'VE HAD INCURSIONS FROM
THE KHOSA ALREADY. BUT IF PENGUIN
PUSHES, WE'LL BE FIGHTING ON
TWO FRONTS.

THREE FRONTS.
TWO-FACE WILL ATTACK
AS SOON AS HE SEES
AN OPENING



RENEE'S RIGHT. WE
NEED TO SHORE UP OUR LINES.
TO THIS END...



...WE'RE TAKING
PENGUIN'S TERRITORY TO
OUR NORTH.



ARE YOU
HAPPY?



WE PUT
ROBINSON PARK TO
OUR BACK, WE SECURE
OUR NORTH PERIMETER.
TACTICALLY SOUND.

IT'S IN
THE PARK! THAT YOUR
IDEA OF A SAFE
PERIMETER, BOCK?

THAT'S A RUMOR RIGHT
NOW—AND EVEN IF IT'S
TRUE, SHE'S NOT THE
THREAT TWO-FACE OR
PENGUIN ARE.

THEN WE
SHOULD GO AFTER
THE KHOSA!

REMOVE THE
KHOSA AND CRO,
FREEZE, AND ALL THE
LUNATICS ON THE
WEST SIDE CAN
MARCH ONTO OUR
FLANK.

WE TAKE
PENGUIN NOW,
WHILE WE HAVE THE
MANPOWER.

WE'VE GOT
MATÉRIEL! FOR GOD'S
SAKE, WE'VE STILL GOT
BULLETS!

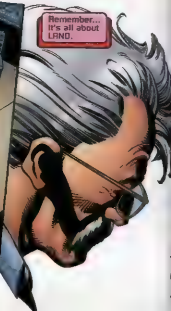
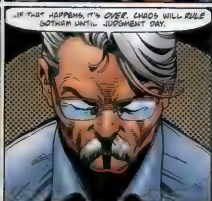
WHICH
WE'LL TAKE FROM
HIM.

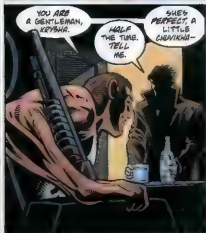
YOU'LL
GET US ALL
KILLED!

THIS IS
NOT OPEN TO
DEBATE, FOLEY.

YOU THINK
YOU'RE A GENERAL, BUT
YOU'RE NOT.

YOU'RE
JUST A PETTY
DICTATOR.





"...UNIQUELY SUITED
TO YOUR NEEDS."

KOBEAST
SAYS YOU KNOW HIM
FROM THE OLD
COUNTRY.

...THAT
YOU'RE HERE
LOOKING FOR
PEACE AND
QUIET..

YOUR
DOOR ISN'T
EVEN
LOCKED.

P-KLIK

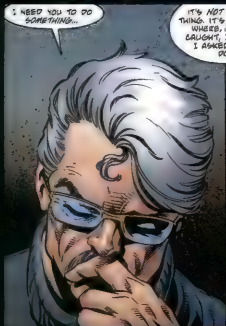
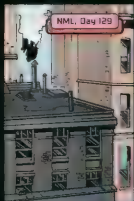
I KNOW
SOMETHING ABOUT
VOICES IN ONE'S
HEAD.

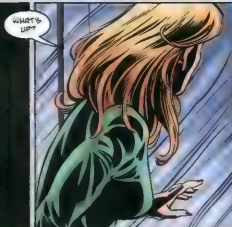
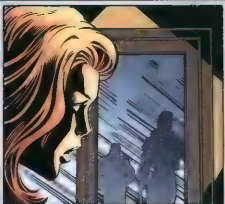
I CAN
GIVE YOU
WHAT YOU
WANT..

...IF
YOU'LL
HELP
ME.

WITH
YOU, THIS CITY
IS MINE.

I'LL
SPLIT IT WITH
YOU.

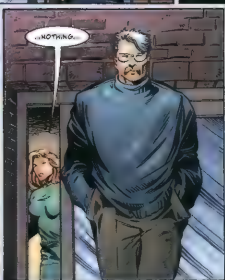




WHAT'S
UP?

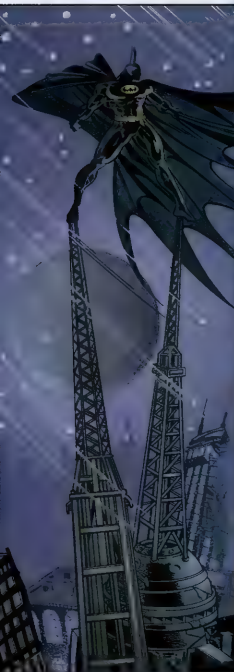


NOTHING.
JUST...IT WAS
NOTHING



...NOTHING...





--YOUR
BETS, ALL YOUR
BETS FOR TONIGHT'S
TRIAL--

HOW
LONG CAN
TONIGHT'S CONTENDER
STAND AGAINST THE
MOUNTAIN OF MUSCLE,
THE BARON OF
BRUTALITY.



...THE
RHINO!!!





...EVEN WIN A
WORKING .45 CALIBER ACP
HOLLOW-POINT ROUND... 155
GRAMS OF GUARANTEED
JUSTICE...



AND NOW
LET'S MEET TONIGHT'S
FIRST DEFENDANT. CHARGED
WITH THEFT OF FOOD--
ONE COUNT--



WHERE ARE
YOU?

--INTENT
TO SUBVERT TWO-
FACE'S AUTHORITY,
TWO COUNTS--OF
ATTEMPTED MURDER OF
OUR OWN GLORIOUS
PROTECTOR--



--STRAIGHT
FROM LITTLE
MOSCOW, ISABELLA
CHERANOVA.

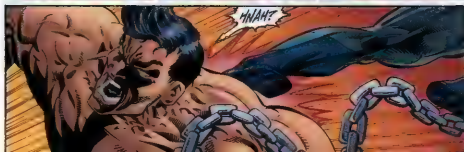
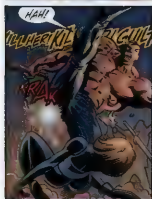
BOOM!

MISS!

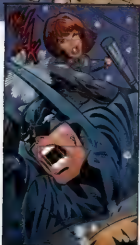
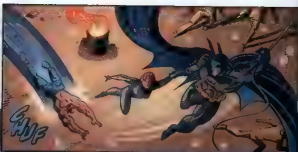
FIXED
FIXED!

NO
CONTEST

NO
FIGHT!







...and after the Earth shattered and the buildings crumbled, the nation abandoned Gotham City. Then only the
valiant, the venal and the insane remained in the place they called **NO MAN'S LAND**

Claim Jumping

NML, Day 129.

The calls START at four minutes past midnight. My agents radioing in one after ANOTHER...

BATMAN'S
TERRITORY
OVERRUN--

--PENGUIN'S
TROOPS--

--GORDON'S
ATTACKING
PENGU--

--GOT ST
NOWHERE--

--TWO
HUNDRED!
HEAR ME? TWO-
FACE--

--HEAVY
BLUE BOY
LOSSES--

--SAY
TWO-FACE
MOVING
NORTH!

so urgent
so frantic, all
telling me the
SAME thing--

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Editor-in-Chief is **BOB KANE**



A comic book illustration of Two-Face running through a city street. He is wearing a brown trench coat and has a white mask on the right side of his face. He is running towards the viewer, with a large crowd of men following him. The men are dressed in various styles of clothing, some in suits and some in more casual wear. They are all holding guns. The background shows tall city buildings, including the Empire State Building. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The overall tone is dramatic and action-packed.

That at heli has
broken loose

Event I: Two-Face
is on the move...

...and he's
got more men
than ANY of
us thought

Two hundred—maybe
more—armed and
ready and marching
uptown

Event 2 James Gordon
vs OAD, and the Blue
Boys.

...a surprise offensive
against PENGUIN'S
south border...



... and PAYING
for each block
in BLOOD...

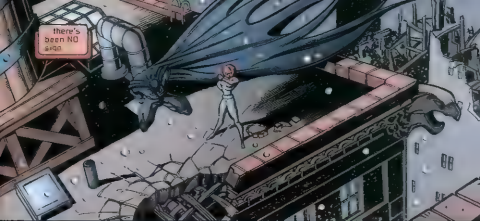
Event 3: At the same moment Dad attacks Penguin to the south

...Penguin attacks Batman's territory to the NORTH.



my SPY says that "Batgirl" is holding her OWN, but of her boss...







...FARLAY, MY DEAR. IT'S OVER. THIS LAND IS OURS NOW!

PENGUIN!
YOU HAVE A TRUCE WITH BATMAN!
YOU CAN'T--

AND WHERE IS HE?

DON'T YOU SEE, MY SECOND-RATE RODENT?

I'D ADVISE YOU TO SURRENDER NOW, WHILE YOU CAN.

OR ELSE HAVE YOUR ARMS CLIPPED?



DEARLET!
IT'S A STANDOFF
RIGHT NOW.

...OR
NOT.

GET
OUT OF
THERE,
MAM!

I'M
GONE

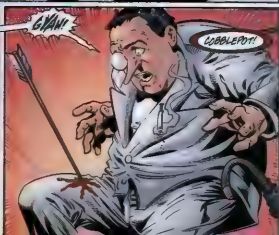
HO'S
BOUT A HOSTAGE,
BOSS?

--BRING
HIM TO
ME.

EXCELLENT,
MY LAD!
NOW--

HERE WE GO..
SURRENDER OR...HMM..
LET'S SEE..

...THIS POOR
FELLOW SPRINGS A
SUDDEN LEAK!







AREN'T YOU GOING TO FIGHT HIM?

ALONE? NOW?

TELL ORACLE...

"BATMAN'S
TERRITORY
IS LOST."

"SLIPPED
OVER THE
RIBS."

"YOU
GOT LUCKY.
JUST A
GRATE."

OH, YEAH,
I FEEL REAL
LUCKY.

SHE'LL
BE FINE!

SHE'LL
BE FINE—THANKS,
RENEE—

—YOU'LL
JUST HAVE
TO BE CAREFUL
WITH YOUR ALIAS,
DAD.

DON'T
SCARE ME LIKE THAT
AGAIN, GARY.

IF YOU
INSIST.

I'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK

RENEE"

COMING.



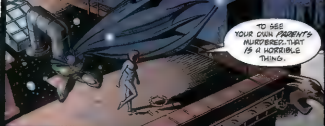








...bozhe...



TO SEE
YOUR OWN PARENTS
MURDERED. THAT
IS A HORRIBLE
THING.



YOU HAVE MY
SYMPATHIES



KEEP
TIGHT



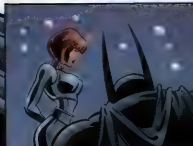
Nnyh!



YOU
DRUGGED
ME...

Oh... A
CHILDREN HYDRATE
VARIANT...

...YOUR
STRENGTH WILL
RETURN.



YOU
HAVE THE
IMPLANT...



YOU'RE A TURNING

I GUESS
THE RUSSIANS FINALLY
SUCCEEDED

NOT
TOTALLY

...I'M THE ONLY
ONE WHO SURVIVED THE
PROCESS

TE... ME
TURNING--

ECHO

--TELL ME,
ECHO--

...IS IT AS
BAD AS THEY
SAY?

THE NOISE MUST BE
UNBEARABLE--

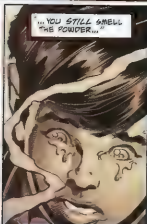
--INTERCEPTED
FREQUENCIES CONSTANTLY
PLAYING IN YOUR
HEAD--

--VOICES YOU CAN NEVER
SHUT OUT--

--I'M
SURE YOU KNOW
WHAT IT'S LIKE,
BATMAN--



...THE SHOTS ECHO IN YOUR MIND EVEN NOW...



...YOU STILL SMELL THE POWDER...



...STILL HEAR YOUR MOTHER'S DY--

ENOUGH!



IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?

TWO-FACE SETS THIS TRAP.

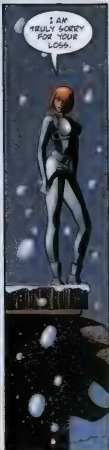


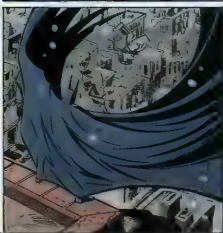
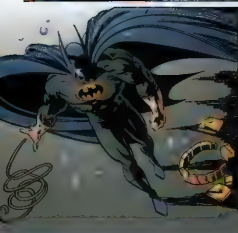
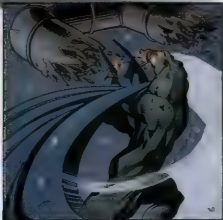
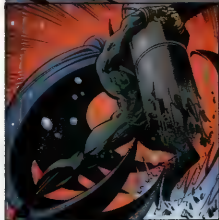
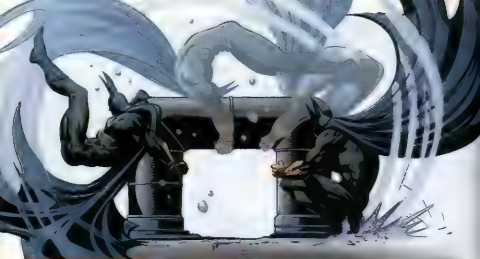
SO YOU CAN READ MY MIND--

--LEARN MY SECRETS--

--YOUR SECRETS ARE SAFE. I WOULD NOT BETRAY MY WORST ENEMY TO THAT BZPUN.











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"WE'RE AT
IT ALL NIGHT."

"THE LAW OF AVERAGES
DEMANDS THAT OUR LUCK
WILL SOON RUN OUT. IT
WON'T LAST. IT CAN'T."

"THREE TIMES
HE FLIPS THAT
CON."

"THREE TIMES
I REACH FOR
MY GUN."

"AND THREE
TIMES IT GOES
IN MY HOLSTER."

"IT'S MAKING MY
STOMACH HURT,
BECAUSE I KNOW,
I KNOW..."

...AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU OFFERING, MY SUPERMAN FRIEND?

A SOLUTION TO A MUTUAL PROBLEM.

WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT.

IF YOU'RE PROPOSING A SURRENDER, HARVEY, I SHOULD CAUTION YOU...

...BY ALL REPORTS, MY FORCES VASTLY OUTNUMBER YOURS.

BUT YOU CAN'T ATTACK ME. YOU'VE GOT A DEAL WITH BATMAN. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PLAY NICE.

ONLY AS LONG AS IT SERVES ME.

I CAN SHOW YOU HIS LAND. KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAR.

SUCH LIES ARE UNLIKE YOU, HARVEY.

MEANING, MY CONGRESS, WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

YOU ALWAYS WERE THE SMART ONE.

MEANING YOU TAKE PRESSURE OFF MY NORTH BORDER. THAT FREES MY MEN.

...TO GO WEST.

GORDON'S ON YOUR WEST.

STOP

I'LL DESTROY HIM.

YOU DO TAKE IT ALL PERSONALLY, DON'T YOU, HARVEY?

...AND YOU CAN DEAL WITH BATMAN?

I GUARANTEE IT.

TWO DAYS IS ALL I NEED THAT AND SOME HELP FROM YOU.

HELP, HOO?

SEVERAL THINGS. WE START WITH A LITTLE FALSE INFORMATION TO BAIT OUR VILLAGERS...

